

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Bowing Out



Lindsey Graham Ends 2016 Presidential Run

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks in Des Moines, Iowa. Graham has announced Monday he is ending his bid for the GOP nomination. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik) Page 4

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Taliban insurgency intensifies: US troops killed near Bagram, Afghanistan

LYNNE O'DONNELL

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

A suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden motorcycle into a joint NATO-Afghan patrol Monday, killing six American troops in the deadliest attack on international forces since August. Two U.S. troops and an Afghan were wounded.

friends of those affected in this tragic incident, especially during this holiday season," U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William Shoffner, head of public affairs at NATO's Resolute Support base in the Afghan capital Kabul, said in a statement. It was the deadliest attack on foreign troops in four months. On Aug. 22,

control of a strategic district in the southern province of Helmand after it was overrun by insurgents, delivering a serious blow to the government's thinly spread and exhausted forces.

Mohammad Jan Rasulyar, Helmand's deputy governor, said insurgents took control of Sangin district



British soldiers carry the body of a victim of an attack that happened near the Spanish Embassy, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015. A suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden motorcycle into a joint NATO-Afghan patrol Monday, killing six American troops in the deadliest attack on international forces since August.

(AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

The attack happened as Taliban fighters overran a strategic district in southern Helmand province, the scene of some of the deadliest fighting between the Taliban and international combat forces prior to the 2014 withdrawal, adding weight to Pentagon predictions that the insurgency is gaining strength.

The soldiers were targeted as they moved through a village near Bagram Airfield, the largest U.S. military facility in Afghanistan, NATO and Afghan officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

A U.S. official confirmed that six American troops were killed and two wounded. An Afghan was also wounded. The official was not authorized to discuss the incident publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families and

three American contractors with the RS base were killed in a suicide attack in Kabul. On Aug. 7 and 8, Kabul was the scene of three insurgent attacks within 24 hours that left at least 35 people dead. One of the attacks, on a U.S. special operations forces base outside Kabul, killed one U.S. soldier and eight

Afghan civilian contractors. In the year since the international drawdown, the Taliban insurgency has intensified. Although the combat mission ended last year, around 9,800 U.S. troops and almost 4,000 NATO forces remain in Afghanistan. They have a mandate to "train, assist and advise" their Afghan counterparts, who are now effectively fighting a battle-hardened Taliban alone.

Monday's attack came as Taliban fighters and government forces battled for

late Sunday. Rasulyar had taken the unusual step of alerting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to the dire security situation and requesting urgent reinforcements through an open letter posted on Facebook on Sunday, saying that he had not been able to make contact through other means.

"We had to take to social media to reach you as Helmand is falling into the hands of the enemy and it requires your immediate attention," Rasulyar wrote in his Facebook post to Ghani. On Monday, Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said Afghan Army commandoes and special forces had arrived in Sangin to push a counter-offensive. He told reporters the Afghan air force had conducted 160 combat and transport flights over Sangin in the past 48 hours. □

Obama calls criticisms of U.S. strategy against IS legitimate

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — President Barack Obama says criticism of his strategy to combat the Islamic State group is legitimate and failure to keep the public informed has contributed to fears that not enough is being done.

In a year-end interview with NPR News, Obama says the most damage the group can do to the U.S. is to force Americans to change how they live or what they believe in.

"I think that there is a legitimate criticism of what I've been doing and our administration has been doing in the sense that we haven't, you know, on a regular basis I think described all the work that we've been doing for more than a year now to defeat ISIL," the president said in the interview released Monday, referring to IS by one of its acronyms.

Obama says that if people don't know about the thousands of airstrikes that have been launched against IS targets since August 2014, or aren't aware that towns in Iraq once controlled by the group have been retaken, "then they might feel as if there's not enough of a response."

"And so part of our goal here is to make sure that people are informed about all the actions that we're taking," he said.

To that end, Obama outlined the strategy against IS in a nationally televised address from the Oval Office on Dec. 6, days after a radicalized married couple who had pledged allegiance to an IS leader opened fire on the husband's co-workers in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 and heightening people's fears about home-grown extremism.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a series of attacks that killed 130 people in Paris about two weeks before the California shooting.

Before leaving Washington for his annual Christmas vacation in Hawaii, Obama tried to soothe the public's anxieties about similar attacks on the U.S. through a series of public appearances with members of his national security team following separate briefings on the Islamic State and on potential threats to the U.S. homeland. After one of those briefings, Obama said publicly that officials had no specific, credible information suggesting a potential attack against the U.S. He urged people to be vigilant during the holidays. In the interview, Obama also urged keeping the situation in perspective, saying that IS "is not an organization that can destroy the United States."

"But they can hurt us, and they can hurt our people and our families. And so I understand why people are worried," he said. "The most damage they can do, though, is if they start changing how we live and what our values are, and part of my message over the next 14 months or 13 months that I remain in office is to just make sure that we remember who we are and make sure that our resilience, our values, our unity are maintained."

"If we do that then ISIL will be defeated," Obama said. Among other topics, the president also discussed the 2016 elections. He said billionaire Donald Trump, the leading Republican presidential candidate, is "exploiting" the fears that working-class men in particular have about the economy and stagnant wages. Obama said demographic changes combined with the "economic stresses" people have been feeling because of the financial crisis, technology and globalization have made life harder for those who rely on a steady paycheck. □

Sheriff: Driver told valet to call police after Vegas crash

SALLY HO

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A woman with her 3-year-old daughter in the car smashed into crowds of visitors on the Las Vegas Strip, then drove to a hotel and told a valet to call police after killing one woman and injuring dozens of people, authorities said Monday.

People jumped on the car and banged on its windows, but Lakeisha N. Holloway, 24, would not stop driving on the sidewalk, Sheriff Joe Lombardo told reporters. Video appeared to show the crash in front of the Paris and Planet Hollywood casino-hotels was intentional, he said.

The 1996 Oldsmobile sedan was fully on the sidewalk twice Sunday night, including once when it traveled for 200 feet (60 meters), police said. The child in the car was not hurt.

The crash happened on a busy stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard across from the dancing water fountains of the Bellagio hotel-casino where visitors crowd sidewalks as they head from one casino to another. The Miss Universe pageant was being held nearby at Planet Hollywood.

Holloway drove a few

blocks to a hotel, parked and asked a valet to call police, saying she had run over some people on the Strip, Lombardo said. She was stoic when she was arrested, he said.

Lombardo said police did not have a definitive motive but that they believe she had a falling out with the father of her child before the crash. A drug recognition expert on the scene determined Holloway was under the influence of a "stimulant," but blood test results were pending.

Holloway last lived in Oregon and had been in Las Vegas for about a week, where she was believed to be homeless and living in the car, authorities said. She faces a charge of murder with a deadly weapon and is being held without bail, prosecutors say. District Attorney Steve Wolfson said he also is considering a slew of other charges.

At least 35 people injured in the crash were taken to hospitals, including three people still in critical condition with head injuries, officials said.

The crash killed Jessica Valenzuela a 32-year-old tourist from Arizona, according to Coroner John Fudenberg. □

Street gangs migrating from drugs to white-collar crimes

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. law enforcement officials say they see increasingly more street gangs relying on white collar crimes like identity theft and credit card fraud rather than the robberies and drug running that they're usually associated with. This year, more than three dozen suspected gang members have been indicted in separate cases involving white collar crime around the country. New York Police Commissioner William Bratton wrote in an editorial in the city's Daily News last week that white-collar crime was being committed by gang members "to an astonishing degree." □

"Why would you spend time on the street slinging crack when you can get 10 years under federal minimums when in reality you can just bone up on how to make six figures and when you get caught you're doing six months?" said Al Pasqual, director of fraud security at the consulting firm Javelin Strategy and Research.

A task force created by federal officials in Florida has charged more than 400 people with causing more than \$140 million in losses — including more than 60 charged three weeks ago — and officials say increasingly those arrested are gang members. □



Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo, left, and Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson speak at a news conference, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, in Las Vegas. The two officials spoke about the car driven by suspect Lakeisha N. Holloway, pictured on monitor, of Oregon, who police said smashed into crowds of pedestrians on the Las Vegas Strip on Sunday night, killing one person and injuring dozens. (AP Photo/David Becker)

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Lindsey Graham ends his 2016 US presidential campaign

LAURIE KELLMAN

BILL BARROW

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday, saying he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people.

Having mustered little support in the polls, Graham's exit will not have an immediate effect on the race in the final stretch before the

Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses and the Feb. 9 New Hampshire primary. But his decision could produce a ripple effect in his home state of South Carolina, which follows New Hampshire with a Feb. 20 primary. Some leading Republicans in South Carolina have remained uncommitted to this point out of loyalty to their senior senator, but now are free to take sides. Graham, too, could make an endorsement, though he's given

no indication of when that might be.

Graham, 60, plunged into the contest in June on a platform of hawkish foreign policy and a declaration that newcomers need not apply for a job that offers no chance for "on-the-job training." At the time, anything was possible because none in the crowded field of Republican candidates was capturing a sizable base of support.

But over the summer, po-



Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, addresses the Sunshine Summit in Orlando, Fla. Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday, saying he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people.

(AP Photo/John Raoux)

litical neophytes Donald Trump and Ben Carson surged to the front of the pack and forced far better-known candidates, such as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, to fight for support. Graham, urged to run by 2008 Republican presidential nominee John McCain, won so little backing in national polls that he failed to qualify even for the second tier Republican debate in

November. An Air Force veteran and reservist, Graham is a foreign-policy hawk who has called President Barack Obama "a small-minded guy in big times." After the attacks on Paris that killed 129 people, Graham pushed for an authorization of military force against the Islamic State that would allow the U.S. to attack the groups' supporters anywhere, with no time limit. □

Trump wants apology from Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump says he wants an apology from Hillary Clinton for saying that the Islamic State group used videos of his comments about Muslims to recruit militants.

Trump told NBC's "Today Show" Monday that "she lies about everything."

He said: "You're talking about people dying. You're talking about making up tapes and videos

which don't exist." During the Democratic debate Saturday, Clinton said that Trump had become the Islamic State's "best recruiter" and that "they are going to people showing videos of Donald Trump insulting Islam and Muslims in order to recruit more radical jihadists."

There was no evidence to back the claim, and a spokeswoman later said "she didn't have a particular video in mind." □

- December 24 & 25 2015 -

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Buyer of guns used in California massacre to be held in jail



In this courtroom sketch, Enrique Marquez appears in federal court in Riverside, Calif., Monday, Dec. 21, 2015. Marquez, 24, who authorities say bought the assault rifles his friend used in the San Bernardino massacre appeared in court Monday to face terrorism-related allegations.

(AP Photo/Bill Robles)

AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, California (AP)

— The man who bought the assault rifles his friend used in the San Bernardino massacre will remain in custody as he faces terrorism-related allegations because he is a danger to the community, a judge ruled Monday.

Enrique Marquez, 24, appeared before U.S. Magis-

trate Judge David Bristow in federal court, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the attack carried out by longtime friend Syed Farook and Farook's wife.

"The defendant actively conspired with the defendant Mr. Farook for purposes of participating in a terrorist act in this nation," Bristow said, adding that Marquez got two weapons under false pretenses and

obtained smokeless powder that Farook used to create improvised explosive devices.

"The grave threat present-

ed to the community by that conspiracy was demonstrated on December 2 when Mr. Farook and his wife committed a terrorist act on the Inland Regional Center. ... He continues to present that danger to the community," Bristow said. But the judge found that Marquez didn't pose a flight risk because he has spent his life in Southern California, has no criminal history and his family was willing to put up \$100,000 in equity on their home for bail.

Marquez is charged with conspiring to provide material support to terrorists in abandoned plans for attacks in 2011 and 2012. The count stems from plans Marquez had with Farook to use pipe bombs and

guns to kill people at the college they attended and those stuck in rush-hour traffic on a California freeway, prosecutors say in court documents. The plots fizzled, and they never acted.

Marquez also is charged with illegally buying the rifles the shooters used in the attack and visa fraud stemming from his marriage to a Russian woman that prosecutors say was a sham. He faces up to 35 years in prison if convicted of all the charges.

His court-appointed attorney has declined to comment. Marquez's mother has called him a good person who was nothing more than friends with the man who carried out the massacre with his wife. □

KaloBios fires its embattled pharmaceutical exec Shkreli

LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)

— In barely 24 hours, Martin Shkreli went from an egotistical pharmaceutical boy wonder running two small drug developers and live-streaming his daily activities to unemployed and facing securities fraud charges that could land him in prison for years.

KaloBios Pharmaceuticals, one of Shkreli's companies, said Monday in a statement that it had terminated Shkreli as its CEO last Thursday and that he resigned from its board of directors then. That was the same day that Shkreli, a 32-year-old former hedge fund manager, was arrested in New York and charged with securities fraud and conspiracy related to a company he previously ran.

Shkreli was led from his apartment in handcuffs by authorities Thursday morn-

ing and later pleaded not guilty and was released on \$5 million bail. The charges carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison if he's convicted. By the time Shkreli made bail, Turing Pharmaceuticals Inc., which he had founded and ran, announced he had resigned as the CEO.

It was a surprising reversal, even for an executive dubbed the "most hated man in America" this fall after he jacked up the price of Daraprim from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill. Daraprim is the only approved drug for a life-threatening parasitic infection that mainly strikes pregnant women, cancer patients and AIDS patients. Amid mounting criticism from patients, doctors and politicians, Shkreli pledged to lower Daraprim's price, but later reneged and instead offered hospitals a 50 percent discount — still amounting to a 2,500 percent increase. □

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American Living:**Consumers buying less expensive gifts for the holidays****JOYCE M. ROSENBERG****AP Business Writer****NEW YORK (AP)** — Cheap is the new chic for holiday gifts.

Jana Montero, who has in the past bought loved ones

ing for deals. But recently, shoppers have taken that practice a step further. They're becoming more open to buying gifts that in the past might have been considered downright

pected to spend modestly more this holiday season. The National Retail Federation predicts holiday spending in November and December will be up 3.7 percent to \$630.5 billion this

tant Paco Underhill says. In other words, people are beginning to question whether they're paying too much for the gifts that they're buying, so now they're starting out with the expectation that they'll buy really cheap items.

"One of the deeply confusing elements to the consuming public is: What is the real cost of something?" he says.

For example, Stacy Roberts saw plenty of sales when she visited The Fashion Mall at Keystone in Indianapolis on Saturday, but she wasn't impressed. She said shoppers need to start following the price of something they want to buy for the holidays a few months beforehand, so they can tell if the sales are truly a bargain.

"To me, deals are B.S.," she says.

Adding to the mistrust of "deals," some consumer marketing experts say, is the shedding of the stigma associated with buying smaller, less expensive gifts. People who spend less can be perceived as savvy shoppers, and also warmer and friendlier than someone who's a conspicuous consumer, says Maura Scott, a marketing professor at Florida State University.

The growing willingness of holiday shoppers to spend less on gifts has made store-owners more conservative as they've stocked up for the holidays. Many have more lower-priced merchandise on their shelves to cater to the growing prevalence of cheap-gift buyers. Toys R Us has bins throughout its stores that feature merchandise like race cars and stuffed animals for less than \$10, and has a section called Dollar Shop with toys priced \$1 to \$5. Target

stores have a section called Bullseye's Playground with \$5 and under items including toys and accessories for electronics.

Smaller retail shops also are stocking up on more inexpensive items.

Elizabeth Madsen's inventory includes gift items \$30 and under at her Poughkeepsie, New York, clothing shop. Madsen says customers want to buy at a boutique, but are cautious about what they spend. So her store has items like \$10 key chains and \$22 sachets. They're selling well, even bringing in people who don't usually shop in her store, Elizabeth Boutique.

"If you have price options for people from lower to higher, you're going to have a better chance of grabbing the customer's attention," Madsen says.

Janae Melvin's attitudes about spending on gifts have changed, in part because she and her husband are putting money aside for a home and a big family vacation next year. Melvin, who lives in Kansas City, Kansas, is looking for gifts that don't cost as much as ones she gave in the past — "not cheap junk, but items that have meaning or significance."

Some of her children's gifts will be toys — dolls and action figures — that cost under \$10. They're each getting a \$25 membership in Sluggerrr's Blue Crew, the Kansas City Royals' children's club, which includes a pullover, baseball cap and necklace when they join. For some of her family members, Melvin is buying \$15 or \$20 picture frames and inserting a family photo. "It's just not necessary to spend so much," she says. □



Janae Melvin shops for gifts at Forever 21 in Kansas City, Kan. Melvin is cutting back on Christmas spending this year in part because she and her husband are putting money aside for a home and a big family vacation next year.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

iPods and tablets for Christmas, has changed her attitude about gift giving: This holiday season, she's grabbing candle sets and serving dishes that cost under \$30 to give to family and friends.

Montero, who lives in New York and is saving to buy a home with her husband, said: "We want to make sure we're conscious of what we're spending."

More holiday shoppers are expected to be like Montero this holiday season in the latest twist in a theme that has played out since the recession. For nearly a decade, shoppers have been more cautious and practical about their spending, doing more bargain shopping and hunt-

cheap. So, they're not just looking for big discounts on extravagant, expensive designer and brand name goods; they're starting out with the intention of getting less expensive items that they might not have considered buying as gifts in the past.

The number of people willing to buy gifts during this holiday shopping season for under \$10 rose to 4 percent this year from 1 percent last year, according to a survey of 1,000 people by America's Research Group, a firm that researches consumer behavior. Meanwhile, the number of people willing to spend between \$26 and \$35 fell to 18 percent from 22 percent.

Overall, people are ex-

pecting slower than the 4.1 percent growth during the same period last year.

The shift in attitude toward cheap is partly rooted in economics, says Jeff Green, a retailing consultant based in Phoenix. Shoppers who vigilantly watched their budgets during the recession continue to feel the pressure of keeping tabs on what they're spending even as the economy improves. "Even with the unemployment rate down, I don't think people feel secure in their jobs," he says.

But it's also rooted in a change in consumer psychology. Some shoppers have become suspicious of retailers who continually slash prices, retail consul-

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Family Matters:**Planning is key for bringing frail seniors home for holidays**

Suzie Dickson Moyer poses with her mother, Mary Campbell Dickson, foreground, at West Hill pond in New Hartford, Conn. Dickson is spending 10 days at her daughter's home for the holidays after entering assisted living three months ago.

(Suzie Dickson Moyer via AP)

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Suzie Dickson Moyer in Amherst, Massachusetts, usually hosts a cookie-decorating party at Christmas for 40 to 50 people. This year, she downsized to close family to accommodate her 92-year-old mother, who will be visiting from an assisted living facility.

While mom, Mary Campbell Dickson, is doing well, "I want to maintain infection control so she doesn't get sick," Moyer said.

She has made other plans to ensure the 10-day visit goes well. Her mother's facility pre-packaged medications and Moyer pulled the throw rugs from the guest room to avoid slipping accidents. Moyer also has grab bars in the bathroom her mother will use and has put two of her adult daughters who live nearby on notice that their assistance might be needed.

"I think it's really important," Moyer said, "to think about, 'Oh my God, what happens if I get sick and can't care for her?'"

When checking a senior out of assisted living to enjoy the holidays at home,

logistics are key, but Moyer said other things are important, too. Keeping a frail loved one involved and socially engaged while also taking care to watch for signs of stress or fatigue are necessary steps.

Bridgette Sloan lost her mother, Emma, in 2012 at age 87, after dementia set in. She had been in assisted living in Ohio, where Sloan and her family lived. Emma would visit regularly but overnight stays at the old, two-story house in Columbus became too challenging as her mother's condition progressed, so Sloan decided on day visits at the holidays to make it easier. "When she spent the night she would sleep in the recliner, which she preferred," Sloan said. "She was cooler at night, which affected her arthritis, so we had to make sure the heat was up higher than we were used to. She could get to the bathroom herself with her cane but we had to make sure the path to the bathroom was well lit and that she could manage some step-ups we had in the house."

Her mother's recliner was in the family room off the dining room, at the center

of holiday hub-bub, which Emma enjoyed. There was a fireplace and she was near the Christmas tree. She took meals on a tray but was included in table talk with the rest of the family, Sloan recalled.

"She wanted to be around all the grandchildren, the dog. She loved that," Sloan said. "We also tried to keep family drama down. With her dementia, she would sometimes get confused when there was conflict and think it was her fault." Also key for relatives is knowing when skilled help is needed — for lifting and bathing, or to administer injectable medications.

That's why nursing homes and other facilities often recommend the temporary use of home health

aides, whether it's for the duration of a stay or for a few hours each day.

Jane Emmerth, an RN who works as a supervisor and clinical case manager for Partners in Care, a home care agency in New York, regularly dispatches nurses and aides to private homes. During the holidays, people often hire for two to four hours to help with visiting loved ones.

"The person going home might not feel comfortable with their daughter bathing them," she said. "They might not feel as secure. If the person has a wound, it has to be taken care of."

Bill Lowe, chief executive for Chicagoland Methodist Senior Services, a network of care providers, agreed that hiring temporary as-

sistance can make a visit run more smoothly. Beyond care management, he said many families struggle to understand when they should include a visitor in activities.

"Don't assume that with memory loss, your family member can't participate in activities like food preparation or party games," he said. "In my own family, my grandmother, who had memory loss, always enjoyed playing a particularly complicated rummy game. Even at times when she seemed distant, we could often get her to leave her room for a game of cards, and we were always amazed that she could capably manage hands as large as 17 cards." □

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Germany steps up deportation of failed asylum-seekers

M. FAULHABER

Associated Press

BAMBERG, Germany (AP)

— Faced with an unprecedented influx of refu-

from 2014. By the end of November, authorities had deported 18,363 people whose asylum request had been rejected, compared

roth said Monday.

But the trend is also affected "by the states' increasing willingness to carry out these procedures," he said.

deportations to 3,643 in the first 11 months of 2015 from 1,007 last year. The conservative government there has been particularly forceful in pushing to limit the number of refugees coming to Germany — estimated at about one million this year — and speed up deportations of those already in the country.

Earlier this year, Bavaria opened a special center for people unlikely to get asylum. Situated on a former U.S. Army barracks in Bamberg, 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Nuremberg, the Arrival and Return Facility II currently houses about 850 people.

Almost all are from western Balkan nations, chiefly Albania, followed by Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia and Macedonia.

Germany considers them to be safe countries where individuals are unlikely to face the kind of persecution that would warrant asylum.

The task of handling asylum requests falls to Germany's 16 states and some have been more rigorous in applying the law than others. Bavaria, the state that most asylum-seekers first set foot in, more than trebled its

"In Serbia there's no work,"

said Elvis Asani, a Roma from Serbia who is being sent back with his wife and children. "So we thought we go to Germany and work a little bit."

"I go back, but we have no home," Asani said when asked what he would do in Serbia. "Where shall we go with three kids?"

Since the center was opened in mid-September, the 15 staff processing asylum requests haven't issued a single permanent residency permit, officials said. Meanwhile, 463 people were deported voluntarily and 170 were forcibly deported. Decisions are made within five to ten days.

"We don't want to paint a discouraging picture, we want to paint a realistic picture," Stefan Krug, an official with the regional government of Upper Franconia, said Monday.

"The mood ahead of Christmas is obviously a bit depressed," he added. "But all in all it's peaceful."

Interior Ministry spokesman Dimroth said, unlike in previous years, none of Germany's states have suspended deportations for the winter — and says federal authorities also see "no place for a halt to deportations." □



Refugees walk through a deportation center in Bamberg, Germany. Hundreds of asylum seekers, most from western Balkan nations, who have had their applications rejected are awaiting deportations.

(Nicolas Armer/dpa via AP)

gees and growing anxiety among voters, German authorities have stepped up the deportation of failed asylum-seekers.

New figures show that the number of deportations almost doubled this year

to 10,884 in all of last year. "(The increase) can be explained on the one hand simply by the increasing number of people who are getting negative (asylum) decisions," Interior Ministry spokesman Johannes Dim-

The task of handling asylum requests falls to Germany's 16 states and some have been more rigorous in applying the law than others. Bavaria, the state that most asylum-seekers first set foot in, more than trebled its

Some were sent to the center straight from the border, others have been in Germany for more than a year. Most said economic hardship made them travel to Germany.

"In Serbia there's no work,"

Belgium questions, releases 5 in Paris attacks investigation

JOHN DAHLBORG

ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian authorities questioned and released five people, including two brothers, who were detained after searches related to the Paris attacks, prosecutors said Monday.

Two people were taken in for questioning following a house search Monday in Brussels, the prosecutor's

office said. On Sunday evening, a building in central Brussels was searched on orders from an anti-terrorism judge. Two brothers and a friend were detained. The prosecutor's office, without giving details, said an analysis of phone records led to Sunday's search. Authorities said they found no weapons or explosives at either residence, and didn't identify those detained.

After a "thorough interrogation" by federal judicial police, the investigating judge ordered the release of all five, the prosecutor's office said. Eight other people detained earlier in Belgium in connection with the Nov. 13 attacks in the French capital remain in preventive custody.

"The investigation will continue unabated," a statement from the prosecutor's office said Monday.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks, which left 130 people dead.

A European Union summit last week resolved to continue the EU's effort against violent extremism, and called for wide-ranging measures including systematic checks on people crossing Europe's external frontiers.

In France, people traveling on high-speed trains from

France to Belgium and the Netherlands now must pass through new metal detectors.

The open French-Belgian border has been under special scrutiny since the attacks by extremists with ties in both countries. In August, a Paris-bound Thalys was the scene of a thwarted attack when passengers subdued an Islamic extremist gunman who had boarded in Brussels. □

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Spain thrust into governing void after splintered vote



A worker removes a campaign poster for the national elections depicting Spain's Prime Minister and Popular Party candidate Mariano Rajoy, in Madrid, Spain, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015. A strong showing Sunday by a pair of upstart parties in Spain's general election upended the country's traditional two-party system, with the ruling Popular Party winning the most votes but falling far short of a parliamentary majority and at risk of being booted from power.

(AP Photo/Daniel Ochoa de Olza)

A. CLENDENNING
C. CANTILLANA
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain entered a governing void Monday, facing weeks or months of uncertainty over what political party or parties will lead the country following a national election that fragmented the status quo. The result was so blurred that a German government spokeswoman said it was impossible to determine who deserved congratulations. Although the ruling right-of-center Popular Party won the most votes, it failed to retain its parliamentary majority and will try to cobble together a coalition or minority government. But that's unlikely, analysts say, because the party wouldn't get enough seats in the lower house of parliament even by allying itself with the new business-friendly Ciudadanos party that came in fourth place and is seen as the most likely ideological partner.

The ambiguous outcome pushed Spain's benchmark stock index down 3.6 per-

cent in Madrid as investors fretted over the possibility of a governing alliance between the Socialist Party and the country's new far-left Podemos party, led by pony-tailed political science professor Pablo Iglesias. That sort of combination could lead to a government that would try to roll back highly unpopular austerity measures imposed over the last four years by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. He vowed after the vote to try to form a government, but gave no details on how he would do so after winning just 123 seats in the 350-member lower house of parliament.

Rajoy said he would try to "form a stable government in the general interest of all Spaniards." German government spokeswoman Cristiane Wirtz told reporters Monday that Spaniards deserve congratulations for voter participation of 73.2 percent, up from the 68.9 percent turnout in 2011 that gave Rajoy a 189-seat parliamentary majority.

"But otherwise, I don't yet

see so clearly who one can congratulate in this situation," Wirtz said, adding that no one from Germany's government had contacted Spanish officials about the formation of a new government.

If forced from power, Rajoy and the Popular Party would become the third European victims this year of a voter backlash against austerity — following elections in Greece and Portugal seen as ballot box rebellions against unpopular tax hikes and spending cuts

invoked during the euro-zone's debt crisis.

In past Spanish elections, the Popular Party and the main opposition Socialists were the established powerhouses and only needed support from tiny parties to get a majority in parliament when they didn't win one from voters.

But Podemos came in a strong third place and Ciudadanos took fourth in their first election fielding national candidates.

The Socialists and Podemos on Monday ruled out voting

in favor of Rajoy. Ciudadanos, which has repeatedly said it will never vote for Rajoy, said that at most it would abstain so the Popular Party could try to form a minority government — given that it was the most voted.

"Even if a stable coalition partnership emerges, the negotiations are unlikely to be swift, which implies that both consumers and businesses face a prolonged period of uncertainty," RBC Capital Markets said in a note to clients. □



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Ex-French policeman freed in Air France fake bomb search

ANGELA CHARLTON

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A retired French police officer traveling on Air France was freed Monday after nearly 12 hours of questioning about a fake bomb hidden in a

lavatory that forced his Paris-bound flight to make an emergency landing in Kenya, a judicial official said. The hoax was the fourth against Air France in recent weeks. It came amid heightened concerns about extremist violence in many

countries, and passenger jitters around the holidays. An official in the prosecutor's office in Bobigny, outside Paris, said that the former police officer in his late 50s was once a member of the elite emergency response unit RAID and hailed from

the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion. The official wasn't authorized to identify himself when speaking about an ongoing probe. The man, who wasn't identified by name, had been taken in for questioning upon arrival Monday at

Charles de Gaulle Airport. He could eventually be summoned for a second period of questioning, but further investigation is needed, said the official in the prosecutor's office, adding, "He's not completely out of the woods." □

Hezbollah chief says group will strike back at Israel

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Amid shouts of "death to Israel," thousands of Hezbollah supporters on Monday thronged the coffin of a high-profile Lebanese militant who the group says was killed by an Israeli airstrike near the Syrian capital.

The group's leader pledged to strike back at the Jewish state, but refrained from making any fiery threats during a speech addressing the assassination.

Hezbollah said Samir Kantar, who spent 30 years in an Israeli prison after being convicted of the 1979 murders of an Israeli policeman along with a father and his 4-year-old daughter, was killed Saturday along with eight others in the airstrike on a residential building in



Zeinab Berjawi, the wife of Hezbollah high-profile militant Samir Kantar, center, holds her husband's portrait during his funeral procession, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

Jaramana.

Hezbollah officials had pledged to avenge his killing, sparking fears of escalation in a volatile region.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, in a

televised speech Monday evening, said the group will exact revenge but did not make any specific threats. "It is our right to retaliate for (Kantar's) assassination in the place, time and man-

ner we deem appropriate. It is our right, and I will add tonight, that we in Hezbollah will practice this right with the help of God," he said.

Earlier Monday, crowds at Kantar's funeral swarmed his coffin, which was draped with a yellow Hezbollah flag.

"Death to Israel," the men shouted, waving their fists in the air, as women threw rice and petals at the coffin.

"If the Israelis imagine that by targeting Samir Kantar they have closed an account, they are very wrong because they know and will know that they have opened accounts that are not closed with a treacherous missile," senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safiedine said at the funeral.

Israeli has neither con-

firmed nor denied that it was behind Kantar's assassination.

In Lebanon, Kantar is known as "the dean of Lebanese prisoners," a reference to his long jail sentence in Israel.

In Israel, he was notorious for the kidnapping and grisly killing of a father and his 4-year-old daughter in the coastal town of Nahariya. Kantar was 16 at the time and a member of the Palestinian militant group the Palestine Liberation Front. He also killed a policeman during the attack and is alleged to have beaten the four-year-old to death with a rifle butt — a charge he denies. He was imprisoned in 1979 in Israel and sentenced to three life terms, but was released as part of a prisoner swap with Hezbollah in 2008. □

Saudi air defense intercepts rockets fired from Yemen

ABDULLAH SHIHRI
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Saudi-led coalition fighting rebels in Yemen said Saudi air defense units intercepted multiple missiles fired from inside Yemen toward the kingdom's southwest border city of Jizan on Monday.

A statement by the coalition said the rockets did not cause injuries or material damage and that the Saudi Air Force reacted immediately and destroyed the launching pad inside Yemen. A Saudi official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief

the press, said the missiles were targeting Jizan's civil airport and had been fired by Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis. Fighting in Yemen has continued despite a cease-fire agreement, with U.N.-sponsored peace talks in Switzerland collapsing on Sunday but scheduled to reconvene Jan. 14.

The conflict in Yemen pits the country's internationally recognized government and the U.S.-allied, Saudi-led coalition against Houthis, who are allied with Yemen's longtime former president. Local affiliates of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have exploited the chaos to grab land

and exercise influence. According to U.N. figures, the war in Yemen has killed at least 5,884 people since March, when fighting escalated after Saudi Arabia began launching airstrikes targeting the rebels. Cross-border shelling has also killed dozens of Saudi border guards and soldiers. □

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85 missing from China landslide; residents blame government



In this photo taken from a drone mounted camera, rescue workers search for survivors in the aftermath of a landslide in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province Monday, Dec. 21, 2015. The massive landslide buried dozens of buildings when it swept through an industrial park in the Chinese city.

(Color China Photo via AP)

PAUL TRAYNOR
Associated Press

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — Rescuers searched Monday for 85 missing people a day after the collapse of a mountain of excavated soil and construction waste that had been piled up over two years in China's manufacturing center of Shenzhen.

Authorities said the landslide buried or damaged 33 buildings in the industrial park in Shenzhen, a city near Hong Kong that makes products used around the world ranging from cellphones to cars.

Residents blamed the government while officials cited human error, with one ministry saying, "The pile was too big, the pile was too steep."

The landslide Sunday covered an area of 380,000 square meters (450,000

square yards) with silt 10 meters (33 feet) deep, authorities said. At least 16 people were hospitalized, including children, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The Shenzhen government said seven trapped people had been rescued and 85 others remained missing Monday evening. Earlier in the day it had said 91 people were missing and seven rescued, but it gave no explanation for the change in the missing. No deaths had been reported.

The landslide is the fourth major disaster to strike China in a year following a deadly New Year's Eve stampede in Shanghai, the capsizing of a cruise ship in the Yangtze River and a massive explosion at a chemicals warehouse in Tianjin on the coast near

Beijing.

Human error has been suspected or confirmed in all three previous disasters, pointing to an often callous attitude toward safety in China despite the threat of harsh penalties.

In Sunday's landslide, the Ministry of Land and Resources said a steep man-made mountain of dirt, cement chunks and other construction waste had been piled up against a 100-meter (330-foot)-high hill over the past two years. Heavy rains in the region saturated the soil, making it heavy and unstable, and ultimately causing it to collapse with massive force. "The pile was too big, the pile was too steep, leading to instability and collapse," the ministry said, adding

that the original, natural hill remained intact.

Some residents blamed government negligence.

"If the government had taken proper measures in the first place, we would not have had this problem," said Chen Chengli. Chen's neighbor, Yi Jimin, said the disaster wasn't an act of nature.

"Heavy rains and a collapse of a mountain are natural disasters, but this wasn't a natural disaster, this was man-made," Yi said.

Aerial photos from the microblog of the Public Security Ministry's Firefighting Bureau showed the area awash in a sea of red mud, with buildings either knocked on their side or collapsed entirely. □

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Argentina's Macri: Free Venezuela's political prisoners

PEDRO SERVIN
Associated Press

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)

— Argentina's president Mauricio Macri asked Venezuela's government on Monday to free prisoners being held for political reasons.

Macri made his appeal during a meeting of the Mercosur trade bloc in the

Paraguayan capital. He had recently promised to suspend Venezuela from the South American block over its government's jailing of opposition leaders. But that's no longer likely because President Nicolas Maduro's government respected the results of Venezuela's Dec. 6 congressional elections.

Mercosur members say that the suspension would only have been in order if Venezuela had not accepted the vote results and broken the group's so-called "democratic clause," which says a member country can be sanctioned if it has "broken the democratic order."

"Venezuela's govern-

ment must work toward achieving a true culture of democracy for our region," Macri said during the meeting in Asuncion. "There's no room for persecution based on ideological reasons or for thinking differently."

To emphasize his commitment to the cause, Macri took a picture on the night he was elected president on Nov. 22 with Lilian Tintori, the wife of Leopoldo Lopez, an opposition leader in Venezuela jailed early last year.

Venezuela became a full member of the South American bloc in 2012 in an effort to link the region's most powerful agricultural and energy markets. Maduro is absent from the group's meeting, but Venezuela's Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez defended her country's socialist government and accused Macri of interfering in Venezuela's internal affairs.

"Macri is defending the political violence of 2014, when (opposition demonstrators) used bazookas, set the public ministry on fire," Rodriguez said of protests last year in Venezuela, in which several dozen people died. □



Argentina's President Mauricio Macri, right, listens to his Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra during a Mercosur Summit in Luque, Paraguay, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015.

(AP Photo/Jorge Saenz)

Outraged:

Colombians look for blame in Miss Universe mix-up

JACOBO GARCIA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombians celebrated for a little more than two minutes what appeared to be an unprecedented feat for this beauty pageant-obsessed South American nation: back-to-back Miss Universe titles.

From President Juan Manuel Santos to Miss Colombia's relatives in the Caribbean port city of Barranquilla, millions of Colombians who tuned in for Sunday's pageant screamed joyously when it was announced that Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo had won this year's crown.

But the celebrating turned to shouts of fraud seconds later as host Steve Harvey announced on live televisi-

sion from Las Vegas that he had mistakenly read from the cue card. The contestant from the Philippines was the new Miss Universe, not Miss Colombia.

"They took away her crown," and "the shortest reign in history" was the sentiment expressed almost universally on Twitter, where the hashtag "Respect the Crown" was the country's top trending topic.

"The entire country, and our family, was overcome with emotion," Alvaro Arevalo, the Colombian runner-up's cousin, told Blu Radio in an interview Monday. "The truth is we're a little shocked."

The sudden reversal even caught by the president by surprise, forcing him to re-

verse his initial celebratory tweet.

"I was watching Miss Universe with my family. We started a huge celebration when they said Colombia had won the Miss Universe title for the second straight year," Santos told Radio Nacional on Monday.

"They put the crown on her head. The photos are there to prove it. To me, as a Colombian, she is still Miss Universe," he said.

Colombians are obsessed with beauty and pageants are a major draw across social classes. But unlike neighboring Venezuela, which has won seven Miss Universe titles, Colombians are accustomed to falling short of the crown, with five runner-up appearances since 1992 including Sun-

day's.

Before last year's crowning of Paulina Vega, only one other Colombian had won the Miss Universe title, in 1958.

In the aftermath of Sunday's shocking finale, Colombians were at a loss to explain the mistake. Newscasts devoted almost 20 minutes to dissecting every detail of the pageant's confusing end — from the tweets by a member of the jury celebrating Gutierrez's win to a front-row audience member's alleged slipping of a cue card to Harvey — as reporters looked for clues of what many Colombians believe was a scripted ending to rob their country of its rightful crown and produce higher TV ratings. □

LATIN BRIEFS

Brazil freezes assets of firm for burst dam

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Brazilian judge has ordered that the assets held by mining giants Vale and Australian company BHP Billiton be frozen in the wake of a dam collapse that officials call the worst environmental disaster in the country's history. The dam burst killed an estimated 9 tons of fish and polluted 850 kilometers (530 miles) of waterways. The federal court said on Monday that Judge Marcelo Aguiar Machado ruled that Vale and BHP Billiton should be punished as co-owners of iron ore miner Samarco. The company operates the dam that burst on Nov. 5. The ruling came after the federal government and Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo states filed a lawsuit to repair the \$5 billion damage. Vale said in a Sunday statement that it plans to appeal that decision. □

Brazil's leader showing slight recovery: pol

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A poll released this weekend shows that Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has experienced a slight improvement in her popularity after months of declining support. The survey published by the reputable pollster Datafolha late Saturday showed Rousseff being rejected by 65 percent of those polled, in comparison to 71 percent opposing her in August. The new numbers come amid efforts by her political enemies to impeach her. Of those surveyed in this latest poll, 12 percent characterized her government as good as compared with 8 percent in Datafolha's August poll. The poll was carried out on Dec. 16 and 17 with 2,810 people in 172 municipalities. The margin of error was plus or minus 2 percentage points. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Davide Bugatti, Owner Eataly Aruba Authentic Italian Street-Food: "I Want to Fulfill the Need of the Local"

NADIER PHILLIP

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Special to Aruba Today

ORANJESTAD - During an interview with Davide Bugatti (35) owner of Eataly Aruba, he explained us about the concept, mission and vision of his place, but also of challenges bringing a new concept on the Island.

Mr. Bugatti comes from Italy and he came to Aruba 6 years ago when he met a special Lady. "Before I didn't know what Aruba was, and I didn't know about the Dutch Caribbean Islands. But after I have been here I felt the need to come here and to make a life and a family as well."

Development of the concept

So six years ago when he came here he started working for Confessions where he was a manager and then opened the pizzeria Amore Mio. When Mr. Bugatti got to know the Island and how everything works he said that he started implementing some ideas that he was having.

Gap in the market

Mr. Bugatti started renting event supplies and then he got the idea of the Authentic Italian Street-food. According to Mr. Bugatti he saw a gap in this market on the Island about food at night. "The mission I had was to bring quality food for especially late night hours. This is why I chose to open a food truck and not a restaurant. You can open another restaurant and try to fill the need of the tourists, but I wanted to fulfill the need of the locals. Opening Amore Mio I worked everyday just with tourists and because the



environment was touristic, I didn't feel like I was in Aruba. The idea that started Eataly Aruba was to work with the local community and serve the quality food to the local community, so the locals don't have to go to eat 30 dollars lasagna in the restaurant, but they can eat a 10 dollar

lasagna at my place, with the same quality." After Mr. Bugatti gained experience working with Amore Mio with 14-16 employees, he decided that he no longer wants a place with so many employees. A truck is something that can be done with two partners, 2 or 3 employees and that's

it. This makes it easier to manage, he said.

Mobile truck

Another reason for opening the food truck is because its mobile and "event friendly". We can take the truck anywhere making it a mobile restaurant, Mr. Bugatti Said. Eataly was a part of different events throughout the year like the Aruba Summer Music Festival, Love Festival and Electric Festival.

Existence

The "Eataly Aruba" project started in 2013 and then it stopped for 8 months. It started back in 2014 with new partnership and with a more serious project, so Eataly Aruba has been open now for 1 year straight everyday of the year.

proach to the truck. Some locals like it and some local prefer to go somewhere else."

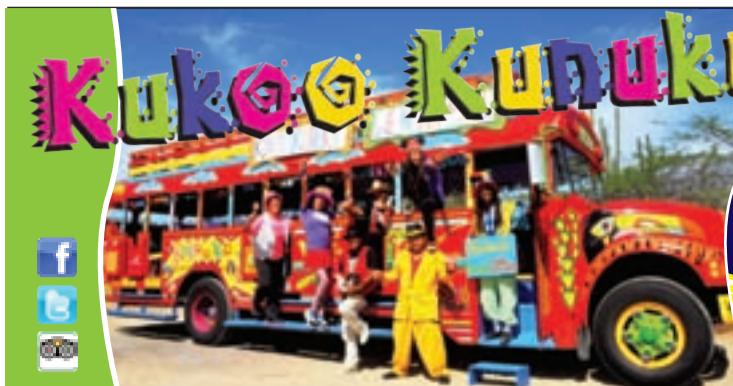
Tony Ianonne (37) co owner of Eataly Aruba is a long time friend of Mr. Bugatti, and is settled in Aruba for 6 months now. Before he decided to come live here he came for vacation twice and always helped his friend around. During these trips, because the truck had just been opened, he checked the potential of the truck. "Seeing the potential of the truck on the Island I decided to let everything go in Italy where I had a good job, car and house. I had a good life but it became an everyday routine so I chose to change my life and come here, Mr. Ianonne said."

Future plans

"For the future plans we should have already opened another concept of street food in Palm Beach, something right in between a food truck and a restaurant serving Italian food. We had some problem with permits, but we should open next year. We will still offering our top quality food in a more gourmet way. More of our future projects include expanding our activity with brands of Italian products, Italian kitchen lessons and we have also a big project for a new kind of restaurant but that is 2017. Keeping in mind the good reputation of my good friend and partner, Mr. Ianonne Added.

The truck is building a really good reputation and in fact the food truck is just the beginning, we think a lot bigger.

Continued on Page 15



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Happy 50th Anniversary Bob and Phyllis Borus of Myrtle Beach!

PALM BEACH - Fifty years of being happily married are showing: Bob and Phyllis Borus (73) from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, are looking really great! The couple is on the island to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in style and they were caught by the photographer at Fishes & More Restaurant recently.

Phyllis and Bob read about Fishes & More in the Arawak Garden on the hi-rise



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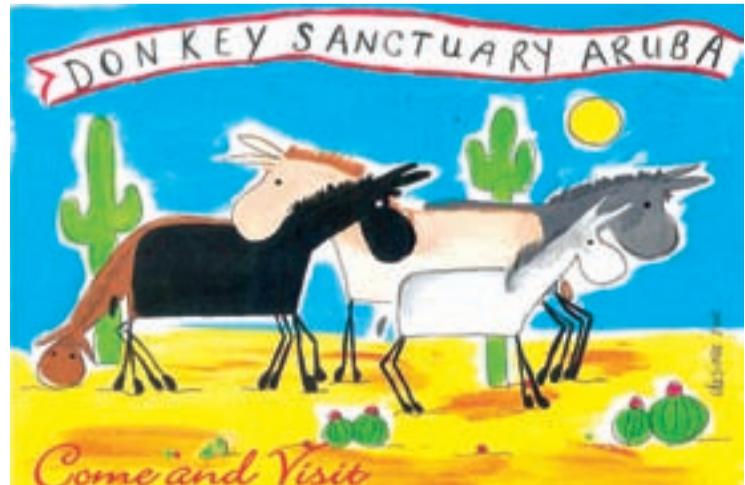
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Continued from Page 13

We could have enough with the truck, working 12 hours at the food truck and making good money, but for us that is not enough. We want to continue striving for expanding our activity he explained.

Carnival around the corner and they are trying to see if they can be in the parade but are waiting on a response from SMAC.

"In 2 or 3 years we hope to have a really good brand and a good name and that people talk good about us."

Social media

Eataly is very engaged with its costumers on social media, they have good customer service and are very responsive to costumers on their Facebook page.

We asked Mr. Bugatti how do they manage to keep that up, and the importance of responding to costumers online, he said: "Mostly the way we sup-

port the social network is the way we are. We didn't study how to manage this, we just implement how we are."

"We put ourselves in the shoes of our clients so when someone is expressing his love for what we do, it's nice to be grateful and send a word for this person and show him that his way of thinking is important for us."

I want and would respond to everyone if i had time, but i try to make time and leave a response because social network is where everyone is spending their time."

"So if I respond to 20 people, maybe there is 7000 that read that response, so my message can go not to only one person which is the case if i am talking face to face but socially it can be seen by a multitude."

Engaging with our costumers online, when they visit the truck we get the feeling that people already know us and that they



know what we serve at Eataly.

Finalizing the interview the owners said that they can promise that the food served at Eataly Aruba is what people eat in Italy.

"We had people that came from New York with Italian heritage, who were

surprised of the food they can have in Aruba that sometimes is better than in New York.

This is because we are both Italian and we prepare with Italian traditions. Sometimes you go to an Italian restaurant but the chef is from another na-

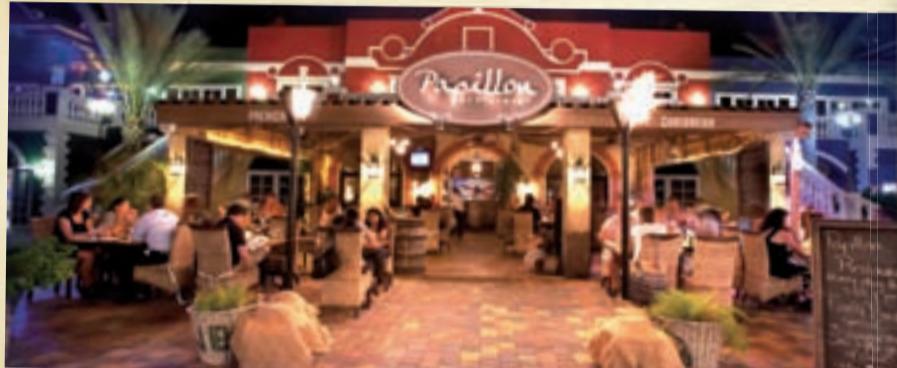
tionality. We have a chef and his wife that prepares everything Italian and we import the meat from Italy. It is the same meat that you eat in Rome and Milano and now here in Aruba. We ship this meat by plane so everything is super fresh!, Mr. Bugatti assured. □

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hour from 4 till 6 pm. Last but not least our Pizzeria del Mar that offers a variety of pizzas. □

College Bowl Preview:

Miami Faces Off With Washington St. In Red Hot Sun Bowl

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Red Card



FIFA Ethics Court Bans Blatter, Platini for 8 Years

Suspended FIFA President Sepp Blatter arrives to his press conference to respond to the FIFA ethics committee's verdict, at former FIFA's headquarters Hotel Sonnenberg in Zurich, Switzerland, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015.

(Patrick B. Kraemer/Keystone via AP)

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

ZURICH (AP) — Banished from soccer's ruling body for eight years for unethical conduct, Sepp Blatter won't give up the presidency of his beloved FIFA without a fight.

"I will fight. I will fight until the end," Blatter said Monday at a news conference that started 90 minutes after he and former protege Michel Platini were each banned by FIFA's ethics committee. It was a stunning removal

of world soccer's most powerful leaders over a \$2 million payment by FIFA to Platini, the president of European soccer's ruling body UEFA. The payment is also the subject of a criminal investigation in Switzerland.

"I'm sad. It can't go on this way. It's not possible," said the 79-year-old Blatter, who has spent more than half his life working for soccer's scandal-hit governing body. "After 40 years, it can't happen this way."

I'm fighting to restore my rights."

Already serving a provisional ban, the elected FIFA president and his long-time likely successor were kicked out of the sport just two months before 209 member federations elect a new leader.

Platini, a FIFA vice president whose bid to succeed Blatter on Feb. 26 now looks over, described the proceedings as a "true mockery."

Their offences were judged

to be conflict of interest and disloyalty to FIFA. They avoided life bans because corruption was not proven. Platini's lawyer, Thibaud d'Ales, told The Associated Press it came as no surprise that the corruption charge had been dropped.

"They used it with the sole purpose of dirtying Michel Platini, although they knew from the start it was an untenable argument," D'Ales said.

Guilty verdicts were expected. So were the

subsequent denials of wrongdoing and promises of urgent appeals to FIFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Blatter's defiant display was a bonus for international media summoned to FIFA's former headquarters, just hundreds of meters (yards) from the new building where he spent eight hours with four ethics judges last Thursday.

Continued on page 18



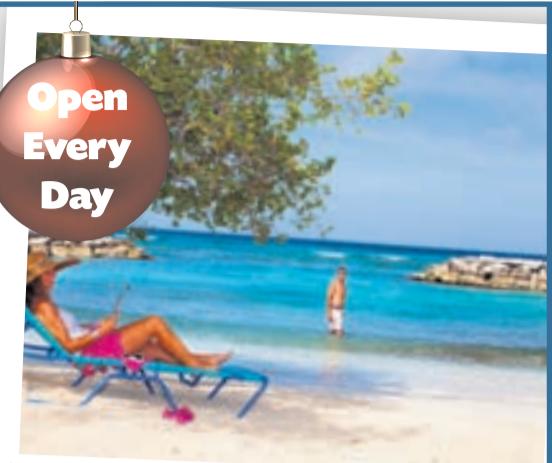
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FIFA Ethics Court Bans Blatter, Platini for 8 Years

Continued from page 17

The choice of venue hinted at a vintage Blatter show. He did not disappoint.

Blatter invoked Nelson Mandela within a minute, pointing to the spot where the iconic South African leader had lifted the World Cup trophy 11 years ago, when his country was chosen as the host nation for the 2010 tournament.

Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, the Nobel organization and the United Nations were also referenced in a spirited 52-minute performance as he held court with more than 100 journalists.

His last words were "I'll be back, thank you."

Blatter's trademark fighting talk was delivered while still sporting a strip of surgical tape on his right cheek after a minor medical procedure five days earlier.

Blatter made it clear he regretted his current position but declared he was innocent of any wrongdoing.

"I am not ashamed," he said. "I am sorry that I am a punching ball. I am sorry for football. ... I am now suspended eight years, suspended eight years. Suspended eight years for what?"

Platini was also dismissive of the ethics commission's work.

He said its proceedings, which included a hearing earlier this month that he did not attend, had been "orchestrated... by governing bodies that I know well" to tarnish him.

"I'm convinced that my fate was sealed before the

Dec. 18 hearing and that this decision is just a pathetic maneuver to hide a true will of taking me out of the football world," the Frenchman said.

ceiving gifts. Platini took \$2 million of FIFA money in 2011 - a payment approved by Blatter as uncontracted salary for work as a presidential adviser

and was rejected by the chamber."

Blatter hit back at that conclusion during his news conference, portraying the ethics committee as saying



Suspended FIFA President Sepp Blatter answers to questions during his press conference to respond to the FIFA ethics committee's verdict, at former FIFA's headquarters Hotel Sonnenberg in Zurich, Switzerland, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015.

(Patrick B. Kraemer/Keystone via AP)

"My behavior has always been faultless and I'm at peace with my own conscience."

Platini said he will also file a lawsuit in a civil court to seek damages for what he has endured during the ethics commission's proceedings. In a brief statement, UEFA said it was "extremely disappointed" with the ruling and supported its leader's right to clear his name.

FIFA's ethics judges decided that Blatter and Platini had broken ethics rules on conflicts of interest, breach of loyalty and offering or re-

from 1999-2002.

In Monday's verdict, Blatter was fined 50,000 Swiss francs (\$50,250) and Platini 80,000 Swiss francs (\$80,400). "Neither in his written statement nor in his personal hearing was Mr. Blatter able to demonstrate another legal basis for this payment," the judges said.

"By failing to place FIFA's interests first and abstain from doing anything which could be contrary to FIFA's interests, Mr. Blatter violated his fiduciary duty to FIFA. "His (Blatter's) assertion of an oral agreement was determined as not convincing

of Platini and himself: "He's a liar and I'm a liar."

"This is not correct," Blatter said. Blatter acknowledged an administrative "error" in failing to register FIFA's debt to Platini in its accounts for eight years, though he insisted: "This is nothing to do with the ethics regulations."

The Swiss had started tentatively and the grey bristles on his chin - that clearly showed he hadn't shaved that morning - added to his aged appearance.

Yet his voice grew stronger, seeming to take heart from gentle prompts and notes

given by his only child, daughter Corinne, sitting to his left.

He spoke in four languages and translated his own German, French and Spanish answers into English, clearly relishing the attention of a big audience again.

By the end, with his top shirt button undone and tie loose, it was possible to forget that Blatter had faced a health scare on Nov. 1.

"I am back, I am back, I am doing better," he said. "I have the support of my daughter, I have the support of Linda (Barras), my love."

While Blatter wants to leave FIFA with his head high, the 60-year-old Platini wants to clear his name, pass a FIFA integrity check and be declared an official candidate in the election he had been favored to win.

Platini's campaign has stalled since he was questioned on Sept. 25 in a Swiss federal investigation of suspected criminal mismanagement at FIFA.

Switzerland's attorney general has opened criminal proceedings against Blatter for the suspected "disloyal payment" of FIFA money to Platini and selling undervalued World Cup TV rights for the Caribbean.

Platini was paid in February 2011, just before Blatter began campaigning for re-election against Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar. Platini's UEFA urged its members weeks before the June 2011 election to back Blatter, who was elected unopposed when Bin Hammam was implicated in bribery. □

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www.Bugaloe.com**NBA Roundup:**

Kyrie Irving returns, Cavaliers rock lowly 76ers 108-86

CLEVELAND (AP) — As Kyrie Irving dressed following his first game in six months, LeBron James popped on some music.

With Chris Brown's "Picture Me Rollin'" filling the locker room, Irving, James and Iman Shumpert bobbed their heads in unison and did some small dance moves.

Close to full strength, the Cavaliers are grooving again.

Irving scored 12 points and played 17 minutes in his season debut and James had 23, leading Cleveland to a 108-86 victory Sunday over the Philadelphia 76ers, who lost their 10th straight and fell to 1-28.

Back on the floor for the first time since breaking his left kneecap in Game 1 of the NBA Finals, Irving showed some rust but that didn't matter.

"Kind of been a long, long road, but finally getting out there with my teammates was a pleasure," Irving said.

The Cavs managed to open the season 17-7 without Irving. But Cleveland is more complete with the All-Star point guard running its offense and being a headache for opposing defenses. Now that Irving's back, the Cavs are as healthy as they've been since early in the playoffs last season.

"We're almost there," James said. Matthew Dellavedova made four 3-pointers and added 20 points for the Cavs, who improved to 12-1 at home and are eyeing a Christmas Day game against Golden State. James didn't play in the fourth quarter, logging a season-low 25 minutes. Nerlens Noel had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the brutal Sixers, now 0-17 on

the road and on their second double-digit losing streak.

At Miami, Chris Bosh scored 29 points and Hassan Whiteside shook off a slow first half to finish with 22 points and 11 rebounds in the Heat's 116-109 win over Portland. Dwyane Wade had 18 points and added seven assists for the Heat. They trailed by 12 at one point and were down 10 at the half.

The Heat shot 57 percent and played the final 13:37 without Goran Dragic. He was ejected for the first time in his career after arguing two foul calls.

Atlanta rallied to beat Orlando 103-100, with Kyle Korver scoring 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter. Korver had four 3-pointers in the final period and six overall. Mike Scott added 15 points, and Al Horford and Jeff Teague scored 14 apiece in Atlanta's third straight victory.



Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving (2) drives to the basket against Philadelphia 76ers Jahlil Okafor (8) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, in Cleveland.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

The Magic had the ball and a chance to tie with 7.3 seconds remaining, but the Hawks smothered an inbounds pass to Evan Fournier.

The Sacramento Kings ended a four-game road losing streak with a 104-94 win at Toronto, the Pelicans beat the Nuggets 130-125 and the Bucks beat the Suns 101-95 with Greg Monroe hitting a spinning, go-ahead layup with 20.6 seconds left to lift Milwaukee past Phoenix.

Bucks coach Jason Kidd said after the game that he will be taking an indefinite leave to have hip surgery. Assistant Joe Prunty will direct the team in his absence.

The Timberwolves beat the Nets 100-85, with Karl-Anthony Towns scoring 24 points in the building where he was taken with the No. 1 pick in the June draft, and Minnesota beat Brooklyn. □

Masters field at 89 going into next year

DOUG FERGUSON**Associated Press**

(AP) - Lee Westwood did his part in Thailand. The math took care of the rest, and he's going to the Masters. Westwood, who tied for second two weeks ago in the Thailand Golf Championship, will move up one spot to No. 50 next week in the final world ranking of the year, assuring him a place in the field at Augusta National in April.

Westwood is No. 51 this week, but with gradual reductions in points, he will go back to no. 50 in the last ranking of 2015. Chris Kirk, who will fall to No. 51, already is in the Masters from

winning Colonial.

Among the 12 criteria for pros to qualify, Augusta National takes the top 50 in the world at the end of the year, and again one week before the Masters.

The addition of 15 players from the top 50 brings the number of active players to 89 going into the new year. The Masters has the smallest field of the four majors and prefers it to be under 100. It has not exceeded 100 players since 1966.

A year ago, 90 players had qualified at the end of the year.

Still to be determined before April is if the field will include four-time champion

Tiger Woods, who has not played since Aug. 23 and has gone through two procedures in the same spot in his back since then. Woods said earlier this month he can only walk and has received no indication when the nerve damage will heal.

The only way for players to qualify for the Masters is to win a PGA Tour event (except for the Puerto Rico Open). There are 13 chances, starting with Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Kapalua. Five players in the winners-only field are not in Augusta National because they won before last year's Masters or

won opposite-field events, which do not count toward an invitation - James Hahn, Padraig Harrington, Alex Cejka, Matt Every and J.J. Henry.

Of the 15 who qualified through the top 50, Sergio Garcia and Billy Horschel were the only ones to play a full PGA Tour schedule last year.

Australian Open winner Matt Jones (No. 54) and Ryan Palmer (No. 58) will end the year outside the top 50. Palmer, who father died in a traffic accident in West Texas in August, was No. 40 when he played his final event in Las Vegas in October. □

NHL Capsules

Capitals hit six straight to beat struggling New York Rangers 7-3

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Williams had two goals and an assist and Marcus Johansson had a goal and two assists as the Washington Capitals closed with six straight goals to beat the struggling New York Rangers 7-3 on Sunday night.

Washington trailed 3-1 after one period but rallied for its fifth straight win. The Capitals are 24-6-2 and tied with Dallas for the NHL lead with 50 points.

Evgeny Kuznetsov, T.J. Oshie, Alex Ovechkin and Jason Chimera also scored for the Capitals. Nicklas Backstrom added three assists and Braden Holtby made 33 saves.

The Rangers have lost three in a row and six of eight to fall to 19-12-4.

J.T. Miller, Chris Kreider and Dan Boyle scored for New York. Henrik Lundqvist



Washington Capitals' Evgeny Kuznetsov (92), second from left, assists in a goal while New York Rangers goalie Magnus Hellberg, left, and Chris Summers, right, look on during the third period of the NHL hockey game, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, in New York. The Capitals defeated the Rangers 7-3.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

made 19 saves before being pulled, and then Magnus Hellberg made four saves in his NHL debut.

BLACKHAWKS 4, SHARKS 3, OT
CHICAGO (AP) — Jona-

than Toews scored at 2:21 of overtime to give surging Chicago a victory over San Jose.

Toews skated in with Patrick Kane for a 2-on-1 and tipped home a nice pass for his 11th goal.

Kane scored his 21st in the first period to help the Blackhawks win for the second straight day and seventh time in nine games overall.

The star forward has two goals and two assists in three games since his 26-game point streak ended last Tuesday against Colorado.

Joonas Donskoi had a goal and an assist for San Jose, which has dropped eight of 10. Tommy Wingels and Joe Pavelski also scored.

BRUINS 2, DEVILS 1, SO
BOSTON (AP) — Ryan Spooner scored the lone shootout goal and Jonas

Gustavsson made 29 saves to lift Boston over New Jersey.

Loui Eriksson had a goal in the first period for the Bruins, who improved to 11-1-3 in their last 15 games and pulled within one point of first-place Montreal in the Atlantic Division.

Andy Greene scored in the second for the Devils, who have managed only five goals in the last five games. They've dropped three straight and four of five.

Spooner scored over the right shoulder of goalie Cory Schneider on the Bruins' first attempt.

Schneider made 38 saves but is winless in his last four starts against Boston.

LIGHTNING 5, SENATORS 2

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Mike Angelidis scored his first NHL goal in almost four years, and Tampa Bay beat Ottawa. □

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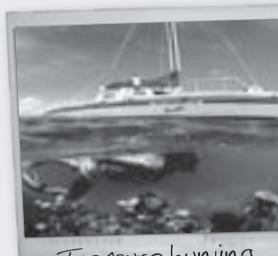
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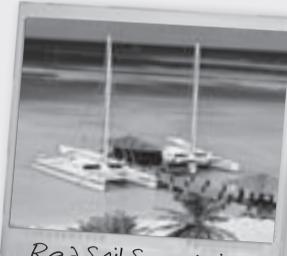
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College Bowl Preview:

Washington State faces off with Miami in the Sun Bowl

TAYLOR BECHTOLD

Associated Press

On one sideline will be the Pac-12 Coach of the Year, and on the other an interim coach that doesn't know where he might end up next season.

With star quarterback Luke Falk set to return, Mike Leach will try to guide Washington State to its first bowl victory in 12 years Saturday, while Larry Scott looks to leave a positive final impression at Miami in the Sun Bowl.

Leach earned conference coach of the year honors for the second time in his career (Big 12, 2008) after taking a Washington State team that went 3-9 in 2014 and leading it to the program's best finish since going 10-3 in 2003.

Behind a prolific passing attack, the Cougars (8-4) stayed within one game of first place in the Pac-12 North Division until a 45-10 loss at rival Washington in their finale.

Falk easily leads the nation with 387.8 passing yards per game and is tied for fourth with 36 touchdowns while throwing only eight interceptions. The sophomore missed the Apple Cup after he was taken off the field on a backboard with an apparent head injury during a 27-3 home win over Colorado on Nov. 21. That came a week after he suffered a similar injury but stayed in against UCLA.

"It was really tough to watch (the loss to Washington) and not be able to play," Falk said. "It's a game you're looking forward to all year."

Falk, though, has returned to practice and will be back for Washington



Washington State wide receiver Gabe Marks (9) breaks a tackle by Oregon State safety Cyril Noland-Lewis during the first half of an NCAA college football game in Pullman, Wash. Washington State will face off against Miami in the Sun Bowl on Saturday, December 26, 2015.

(AP Photo/Young Kwak)

State's second bowl appearance since beating Texas 28-20 in the Holiday Bowl in December 2003. The Cougars lost 48-45 to Colorado State in the 2013 New Mexico Bowl.

Gabe Marks and Dom Williams are Falk's top targets in the passing game. Marks ranks fourth in the nation with 99 catches to go with 1,125 yards and 14 touchdowns, while Williams has 73 receptions for 997 yards and 11 scores.

The Cougars, however, hope Marks will benefit from time off after he sustained a leg injury in the fourth quarter of the blow-

out loss to the rival Huskies. Washington State might want to give Gerard Wicks some touches against a Miami team that ranked 13th in the ACC against the run, allowing 210.5 yards per game. The Hurricanes surrendered a total of 394 passing yards while coming down with three interceptions over their final three games.

"They're a great football team at 8-4 and I think they're even better than they're record shows," Falk added. "It makes it real fun for us and hopefully for the seniors, we can get them to go out the right way. The

Sun Bowl is a great bowl." Playing in a bowl game for the third straight year, Miami is looking to avoid a sixth consecutive post-season loss since a 21-20 victory over Nevada in the 2006 MPC Computers Bowl in Boise, Idaho.

Scott will try to direct the Hurricanes to their highest win total since 2003. It could be his last game after getting promoted from tight ends coach following the firing of Al Golden. Miami has won four of its last five under Scott, including a 29-24 victory at Pittsburgh in the regular-season finale Nov. 27.

USF signs Taggart to 3-year extension through 2020

MIAMI (AP) -- South Florida coach Willie Taggart has signed a three-year extension that puts him in line to stay with the Bulls through 2020. The school announced the deal Mon-

day morning, hours before the Bulls' matchup against No. 25 Western Kentucky in the Miami Beach Bowl. That game was USF's first post-season appearance since 2010. The Bulls finished the

2015 regular season with seven wins in eight games, a significant turnaround for a program that had lost 37 of its last 48 games before that stretch.

USF athletic director Mark

Former Georgia coach Mark Richt, who played quarterback for the Hurricanes in the early 1980s, was hired as Miami's next coach Dec. 4.

"We know the nature of the business and how it works and how things happen," Scott said.

"Every one of these guys are really good coaches. They're going to add substance to whatever situation they find themselves in here."

Miami should be in good hands in the first meeting between the schools with budding star Brad Kaaya under center. The sophomore has thrown for an ACC-best 274.5 yards per game and became the third in school history with over 3,000 in back-to-back seasons. Stacy Coley has 44 receptions for a team-high 645 yards and three touchdowns, while Rashawn Scott has a team-best 47 catches for 620 yards and five scores.

Washington State ranks fourth in the Pac-12 with 223.4 passing yards allowed per game, but sits near the bottom of the league by averaging 199.8 rushing yards.

Joe Yearby had a team-high 939 yards and six touchdowns on the ground for the Hurricanes, who ranked 13th in the ACC with 119.5 rushing yards per game. □

Harlan says Taggart "has never wavered from his belief in what he is building." Taggart is in his third season with the Bulls. He was 2-10 and 4-8 in his first two years at USF. □

NFL Roundup:**Panthers stay perfect; Steelers bust Broncos**

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — After one of the strangest and nastiest games this NFL season, Cam Newton had an odd feeling.

His Carolina Panthers had just shrugged off a record-equaling Giants comeback to remain perfect with a wild 38-35 victory Sunday. Newton, who threw for five touchdowns to further state his case for NFL Most Valuable Player honors, wasn't quite

The 18 straight wins match the third-longest string in NFL history.

"These last two games are division opponents, and we'll be in a hostile environment in Atlanta," Newton said. "And we've got a tricky week with Christmas. We just have to find a way to keep moving ahead and make sure we stay on the side of the pendulum."

In Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger passed for 380

next week. They still have a chance to secure the No. 1 seed if they win out and Carolina loses its last two games. The Eagles (6-8) would win the NFC East title if they beat Washington at home and the Giants on the road.

The Seahawks clinched a playoff spot for the fourth straight season with a 30-13 win over the Browns, the Green Bay Packers (10-4) still have their

The Green Bay Packers



Pittsburgh Steelers running back DeAngelo Williams (34) dives into the end zone for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015. (AP Photo/Don Wright)

sure what he'd just been through.

It looked oh so easy when NFC South champion Carolina led 35-7 with 5:32 left in the third quarter. Then the Giants (6-8) matched San Francisco's 28-point rally — from the same score — against New Orleans in 1980.

One big difference: The 49ers won that game in overtime. The Giants trail Washington by one game in the NFC East, and have lost in the final minutes six times.

Carolina hasn't lost at all, of course.

Carolina visits Atlanta and hosts Tampa Bay to finish the schedule. All three previous NFL teams to reach 14-0 — Miami in 1972, New England in 2007 and Indianapolis in 2009 — made the Super Bowl. Only the Dolphins won the championship, though.

yards and three touchdowns as the Steelers rallied for a 34-27 win over the Broncos.

Antonio Brown caught 16 passes for 189 yards and two scores as Pittsburgh (9-5) moved into the AFC's second wild-card spot by dominating the NFL's best defense after spotting the Broncos 17-point lead.

The Steelers controlled the second half, finally taking the lead when Ryan Shazier intercepted Brock Osweiler to set up a 23-yard dart from Roethlisberger to Brown with 3:34 to go.

The Cardinals beat the Eagles 40-17 with David Johnson running for 187 yards and three touchdowns, Carson Palmer threw a TD pass and Arizona beat Philadelphia to clinch the NFC West title. The Cardinals (12-2) will earn a first-round bye with a win over Green Bay

(10-4) beat the Raiders 30-20 and still have their eyes set on a division title and remain one game ahead of Minnesota in the NFC North, and the Bengals clinched a fifth straight postseason berth with a 24-14 win over the 49ers. In other results the Vikings 38 beat the Bears 17, the Chargers had a 30-13 win over the Dolphins, Washington had a 35-25 win over the Bills — winning consecutive games for the first time in more than a year and stay atop the NFC East — the Chiefs defeated the Ravens 34-14, Houston won at Indianapolis for the first time in 14 tries with a 16-10 victory over the Colts, the Patriots held onto top spot in the AFC with a 33-16 result against the Titans and the Falcons ended a six-game losing streak with a 23-17 win over the Jaguars. □

NFL Today: Week 15 Leaders**PASSING**

—Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers, had 380 yards passing and three touchdowns to lead Pittsburgh to a 34-27 comeback victory over Denver.

—Cam Newton, Panthers, threw five touchdown passes for the third time in five weeks and also ran for 100 yards as Carolina remained perfect on the season by outlasting the New York Giants 38-35.

—Kirk Cousins, Redskins, equaled his career high with four touchdown passes and ran 13 yards for another score, helping Washington win consecutive games for the first time in more than a year and stay atop the NFC East by beating Buffalo 35-25.

—Teddy Bridgewater, Vikings, threw a career-high four touchdowns and ran for another one, and the Vikings beat Chicago 38-17.

—Eli Manning, Giants, threw four TD passes in a losing cause as New York fell 38-35 to unbeaten Carolina.

RUSHING

—Alfred Blue, Texans, ran 20 times for 107 yards in Houston's 16-10 win at Indianapolis.

—Rashad Jennings, Giants, had 107 yards rushing — the first 100-yard rusher for the team this season — and a TD on 16 carries in a 38-35 loss to Carolina.

—Jeremy Hill, Bengals, ran for two scores in Cincinnati's 24-14 win at San Francisco.

—Danny Woodhead, Chargers, had a touchdown run and also caught three TD passes in San Diego's 30-14 victory over Miami.

RECEIVING

—Antonio Brown, Steelers, caught 16 passes for 189 yards and two TDs in Pittsburgh's 34-27 win over Denver.

—Emmanuel Sanders, Broncos, made 10 receptions for a career-high 181 yards and a touchdown in a losing cause as Denver fell to Pittsburgh 34-27.

—DeSean Jackson, Redskins, had six catches for 153 yards, including a 77-yard TD in Washington's 35-25 win over Buffalo.

—Kamar Aiken, Ravens, caught eight passes for 128 yards, including a desperation 48-yard touchdown at the end of the first half of Baltimore's 34-14 loss to Kansas City.

—Sammy Watkins, Bills, had two touchdowns catches while finishing with five receptions for 111 yards in Buffalo's 35-25 loss at Washington.

—Delanie Walker, Titans, caught two touchdowns passes in Tennessee's 33-16 loss at New England.

SPECIAL TEAMS

—Graham Gano, Panthers, kicked a 43-yard field goal as time expired to keep Carolina perfect this season with a wild 38-35 victory over the New York Giants.

—Stephen Gostkowski, Patriots, booted four field goals in New England's 33-16 win against Tennessee.

—Carlos Dunlap, Bengals, blocked Phil Dawson's 41-yard field goal attempt in Cincinnati's 24-14 win at San Francisco.

—Mason Crosby, Packers, kicked three field goals in the second half to help lift Green Bay over Oakland 30-20.

DEFENSE

—Tyvon Branch, Chiefs, returned a fumble 73 yards for a touchdown in Kansas City's 34-14 rout of Baltimore. Teammate Marcus Peters scored on a 90-yard interception return.

—Damarious Randall, Packers, returned an interception 43 yards for a score in Green Bay's 30-20 win over Oakland. □

TECH NOTES

Ericsson, Apple in patent pact; settle litigation

HELSINKI (AP) — Sweden's Ericsson AB and Apple Inc. have agreed a 7-year co-operation deal that brings an end to outstanding patent litigations. Ericsson, which is the world's largest wireless equipment maker, says the two companies will cooperate in the future, including on the development of fifth generation phones, or 5G, as well as on video and wireless networks. As part of the deal announced Monday, Apple will make an initial payment to Ericsson followed by royalties. Though the precise amounts were not mentioned, Ericsson said it expects revenues this year of some \$1.4 billion, which includes "the positive effects" of the settlement and income from other licensees. The agreement includes a cross license that covers patents owned by both companies, including the GSM, UMTS and LTE standards used in mobile technology. □

A Safety system for trains set up in US Northeast

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Safety technology that can prevent crashes like a deadly passenger train derailment in May has been activated on Amtrak tracks between Philadelphia and New York. Officials say the technology called Positive Train Control, or PTC, was activated over the weekend, completing the safety system along the railroad's busy Northeast Corridor. PTC was activated on the Philadelphia-to-Washington section a week ago, and the stretch from Boston to New Haven, Connecticut, was already operational. Investigators say the May 12 crash in Philadelphia that killed eight people and injured about 200 could have been prevented if PTC had been operating. □

Pew:

Fewer people using broadband because it's costly

TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More Americans are shunning costly home broadband and using their cellphones to get online, a new survey shows.

Eighty percent of U.S. adults had Internet access this year, whether through a smartphone or a home Internet connection, up from 78 percent two years ago, according to the survey published Monday by the Pew Research Center. But after years of home broadband growth, slightly fewer adults in 2015 got Internet from providers like home phone or cable company, mostly because it's too expensive for them. The number dropped to 67 percent from 70 percent in the center's 2013 survey. Meanwhile, the number of people relying on cellphones alone for Internet rose to 13 percent this year from 8 percent in 2013.

That plateau in home broadband use comes as the Obama administration has pushed for greater broadband access and criticized the lack of competition among home Internet providers.

The dip in home Internet use could just be temporary, said Pew researcher John Horrigan. Adoption also flatlined five years ago

before picking up again, which he said likely had to do with economic difficulties in the aftermath of the recession.

For those without home Internet, 33 percent say the biggest reason is the monthly cost is too high, while 10 percent say a

low-income Americans. But a smartphone isn't as easy to use as a home computer when it comes to applying for jobs and is often limited by data caps.

Only 5 percent of people who don't have home broadband access say that it's primarily because it's

at home have never had it and aren't interested. That's partly tied to age: 39 percent are 65 or older.

The Pew report drew on a September 2013 survey of 6,020 U.S. adults and several polls conducted in spring, summer and fall of 2015 that included, in total,



Cables connecting phone, cable and broadband Internet service come out of a wall connector in the home space exploration engineering office of Mike Loucks in Friday Harbor, Wash., in the San Juan Islands. Loucks lost Internet and phone service during a 10-day outage on the island in 2013. More Americans are shunning costly home broadband and using their cellphones to get online, a new survey shows.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

computer is too expensive. But 12 percent say they don't need it, a smartphone is sufficient.

Of those only getting access through a smartphone, the increase is biggest among

not available or the speed is too slow, underscoring the growth of broadband networks throughout the U.S. over the past 15 years. Nearly half of people who don't have broadband

6,687 adults. The margin of error for the home adoption finding was plus or minus 1.3 percentage points in 2015 and 1.4 percentage points in 2013. □

6 plead guilty in \$100 million software piracy case

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

Six people pleaded guilty to charges related to more than \$100 million in stolen software such as Windows XP that authorities said was one of the largest such piracy schemes prosecuted by the U.S. government.

Tammy Dickinson, U.S. attorney for the western district of Missouri, said the case involved more than \$100 million worth of stolen or counterfeit software products, including about 170,000 access codes for Adobe Systems and Microsoft products, including Windows 7 and Windows XP. Product key codes are used to obtain access to various copyrighted soft-

ware programs.

Federal authorities also confiscated more than \$20 million in assets, including \$10 million from bank and investment accounts and 27 pieces of real estate valued at a total of about \$10 million, Dickinson said. Authorities estimate the defendants made about \$30 million in profits from selling the pirated software.

"Software piracy is a significant economic crime that victimizes not only software developers and manufacturers, but unwitting customers," she said.

The prosecutor's office also said Microsoft and other software developers have filed civil lawsuits against

"many of these defendants."

The investigation, which is ongoing, began in 2013 when authorities learned Casey Lee Ross of Kansas City was buying and reselling about 30,000 product key codes and other items that allowed access to copyrighted software products.

The prosecutor's office said Ross bought the illicit codes well below their market value from sources in China, Singapore and Europe and then resold them to four of the other defendants, who then sold the codes again online.

Ross was accused of obtaining "unauthorized, sto-

len, illicit, copied, and previously used product key codes using a variety of methods." Prosecutors said in the charging document that some of the software was clearly marked as being promotional, not for resale or academic licensed. Ross pleaded guilty in June to conspiracy to defraud the U.S. His sentencing is scheduled for February.

Four of the other defendants who pleaded guilty to their roles in the scheme are: Rex Yang of Seattle; Matthew Lockwood, of Denver; Reza Davachi, of Damascus, Maryland, and Arunachalam Annamalai, a citizen of India who lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. □

Stocks post modest gain in light trading

By KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - U.S. stocks posted moderate gains, recovering a small portion of the big losses recorded late last week. Energy stocks continued to fall as the price of oil fell. Hospital operator Tenet Healthcare rose 11 percent after it renewed a contract with health insurer Aetna. Crude fell another 1 percent, nearing levels not seen since the financial crisis, and oil company shares slid. Newfield Exploration

note fell to 2.19 percent. Pep Boys and Fitbit were big market movers for the day.

Market Movers:

NYSE

Pep Boys - Manny, Moe & Jack (PBY), up \$1.09 to \$16.85

The auto parts seller said a revised offer from Carl Icahn is a superior bid than a sweetened one from tire company Bridgestone.

Tiffany & Co. (TIF), up \$2.64 to \$74.48

A Jefferies analyst raised

trust said it sold its leasehold interest in the DoubleTree hotel in New York's Time Square for \$540 million.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (RCL), up \$3.16 to \$99.06

A Stifel analyst reiterated his "Buy" rating on the cruise operator's stock, saying its business looks strong for next year.

Winnebago Industries Inc. (WGO), down 12 cents to \$18.85

The maker of recreational vehicles named Michael



Trader Gregory Rowe works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks posted moderate gains, recovering a small portion of the big losses recorded late last week.

dropped 4 percent and ConocoPhillips fell 2 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 122 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 17,251.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 16 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 2,021. The Nasdaq composite gained 46 points, or 0.9 percent, to close at 4,962. Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury

his investment rating on the high-end jeweler's stock to a "Buy," calling it a "powerful luxury brand."

Fitbit Inc. (FIT), up \$1.37 to \$29.10

Sales of Fitbit's fitness trackers are "exploding," according to a Pacific Crest Securities analyst who checked store shelves.

Sunstone Hotel Investors Inc. (SHO), up 44 cents to \$13.66

The real estate investment

Happe, a vice president at lawnmower company Toro, as its next chief executive.

NASDAQ

Sequential Brands Group Inc. (SQBG), up 33 cents to \$7.86

The brand managing company expects 2015 revenue to be higher than previously expected after it bought the Martha Stewart brand. □

Cintas Corp. beats 2Q profit forecasts

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) - Cintas Corp. (CTAS) on Monday reported fiscal second-quarter profit of \$345.1 million.

On a per-share basis, the Cincinnati-based company said it had profit of \$3.06. Earnings, adjusted to account for discontinued operations, came to \$1.03 per share.

The results beat Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of 11 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$1 per share.

The uniform rental company posted revenue of \$1.22 billion in the period, which met Street forecasts.

Cintas expects full-year earnings to be \$3.83 to \$3.90 per share, with rev-

enue in the range of \$4.83 billion to \$4.88 billion.

Cintas shares have climbed 14 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has dropped roughly 2 percent. In the final minutes of trading on Monday, shares hit \$89.21, a climb of 13 percent in the last 12 months. □

Business News Briefs

Staples: Federal Trade Commission rejected new offer of Office Depot

NEW YORK (AP) — Staples says that regulators have rejected its offer to sell \$1.25 billion in contracts, part of its plan to ease monopoly fears as it attempts to acquire rival Office Depot. The Federal Trade Commission earlier this month sought to block the deal, saying it would reduce competition in the office supplies market. Staples, based in Framingham, Massachusetts, said that it is still willing to negotiate with the FTC and that it may pursue legal action to close the deal. Shares of Staples Inc. rose about 13 cents to \$9.55 in morning trading Monday. Shares of Office Depot Inc., based in Boca Raton, Florida, rose 9 cents to \$5.50. □

Icahn boosts offer to buy Pep Boys

NEW YORK (AP) — Pep Boys is calling a revised offer from billionaire Carl Icahn a superior bid, just days after the auto parts seller accepted a sweetened deal from tire company Bridgestone. Icahn Enterprises offered \$16.50 for each share of Pep Boys on Friday, in a deal worth about \$893 million. That's up from previous offers from Icahn Enterprises and Bridgestone of \$15.50 per share. Pep Boys said Monday that it now prefers to take the offer from Icahn Enterprises and that Tokyo's Bridgestone Corp. has until Wednesday to up its bid. In a printed statement, Bridgestone says it still believes its proposed buyout is good for the combined business. □

JPMorgan, pension funds settling investor loss case for \$150 million

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — JPMorgan Chase has agreed to pay \$150 million to public pension funds and individuals hurt by its \$6 billion "London Whale" trading loss. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced the settlement agreement Monday. It comes in a 2012 class-action lawsuit that alleged JPMorgan Chase issued false and misleading statements regarding its trading activity, describing risky and speculative trading strategies as mere "hedges" or "risk management" devices. Subsequent London Whale losses caused the bank's stock value to plummet. The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System lost \$2.5 million. It joined similar funds in Oregon and Arkansas and Swedish pension fund AP7 as lead plaintiffs. □

US regulators slap BMW with \$40M fine for crash test safety violations

DETROIT (AP) — German automaker BMW is facing a \$40 million penalty from U.S. safety regulators for moving too slowly to fix Mini brand cars that didn't pass federal crash tests. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says BMW didn't recall cars quickly enough, and failed to send the agency accurate recall information. The agency says BMW AG agreed to the violations in an order and will take steps to ensure they don't happen again. The company has to pay \$10 million in cash and spend \$10 million on steps comply with the order. Another \$20 million in fines must be paid if BMW doesn't comply or commits other safety violations. It's the second fine against BMW in recent years for similar violations. The company was fined \$3 million in 2012. □

Chinese leaders promise lower business costs to boost growth

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese leaders promised Monday to promote economic growth by cutting business costs and reducing surplus production capacity in some industries as they try to reverse an unexpectedly sharp downturn.

After an annual planning meeting, Communist Party leaders also promised to reduce financial risks and rein in rising debt that has prompted concern about possible threats to China's financial system.

The leadership under President Xi Jinping is in the midst of a multi-year effort to nurture slower, more sustainable growth based on domestic consumption instead of trade and investment. Growth has slowed more abruptly than expected over the past two years, forcing the party to juggle competing demands of shoring up the expansion while keeping reforms on track.

The pledges in Monday's brief statement weren't new, but they indicate where the ruling party's priorities will lie in 2016.

The statement also gave no details of how key issues such as the status of state companies that dominate industries from banking to energy to telecoms would be affected.

Economic growth decelerated to a six-year low of 6.9 percent in the quarter ending in September and the International Monetary Fund and private sector forecasters expect it to fall as low as 6 percent next year. Communist leaders insist they are comfortable with slower growth after the last decade's explosive double-digit expansion but face pressure to avoid a spike in job losses.

In 2016, the party will "reduce the burden on enterprises," the statement said. It promised to promote "mass entrepreneurship and innovation," but gave no details.

The party has taken steps to help entrepreneurs by reducing regulatory approvals required to start a business. In November, Beijing cut costs for entrepreneurs by reducing interest rates charged by credit unions and other small lenders that serve the private sec-



Coal miners work at a coal mine in Huaibei in central China's Anhui province Monday Dec. 21, 2015. Chinese leaders have promised to cut costs for businesses to promote economic growth next year, reduce financial risks and eliminate excessive production capacity that is a drag on some industries.

(Chinatopix Via AP)

tor.

Beijing will "resolve excess capacity," the statement said, a reference to industries including steel, cement, glass and solar panels in which supply exceeds demand.

That glut has led to price-cutting wars that threaten the financial health of companies. Regulators want to promote consolidation through mergers but face resistance from local officials who are reluctant to

lose jobs and tax revenue. Monday's statement suggested local leaders might come under increased pressure from Beijing to cooperate.

The ruling party unveiled plans in September to inject more competition into industries controlled by state companies and to force them to become financially self-reliant. But it stressed the ruling party would retain its dominant role in the economy. □

Reform advocates complain the ruling party is dragging its feet on promises to open industries dominated by politically favored state companies that benefit from monopolies, low-cost loans and other favors.

Party leaders also "vowed to take further steps to guard against and defuse financial risks," the statement said. Financial analysts have warned China's financial system faces mounting risks due to soaring levels of debt.

A largely unregulated industry of private sector finance companies that flourished over the past decade has suffered rising defaults as economic growth slows, causing losses for depositors and a spate of protests. Chinese regulators say banks are financially healthy but they have tightened control over private finance companies. Last week, an Internet-based lender, Ezubo, that news reports said collected billions of dollars in deposits, was raided by police who seized a bank account and detained executives. □

Toshiba to cut jobs in consumer electronics amid record loss

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Toshiba plans to cut 7,800 jobs, mostly in its consumer-electronics business, as it reorganizes in the face of projected record losses for the current fiscal year.

The Japanese conglomerate has been struggling with the aftermath of a major accounting scandal, compounded by troubles in nuclear energy and losses in the business that makes personal computers, TVs and consumer appliances. The job cuts announced Monday will affect about 30 percent of the consumer-electronics business and represent about 3 percent of Toshiba's overall employees.

Toshiba Corp. said it is also selling its TV manufacturing plant in Indonesia and will sell or seek outside investors for a division that makes

electronics for health care. Despite its well-known brand, Toshiba has struggled to differentiate its products in consumer electronics. Its television business faces stiff competition from low-cost Chinese manufacturers and high-end Korean brands, while demand for personal computers has been falling worldwide. Toshiba is also wrestling with costs from decommissioning the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, which went into meltdown after the March 2011 tsunami. Toshiba said it had not yet fully calculated the impact of the nuclear disaster on its books. Analysts say the company has been looking to sell or restructure several businesses to generate more money for its mainstay memory-chip business. That's one of the company's strongest divisions but



Shoppers watch air conditioners displayed at an electronics store in Tokyo. Scandal-plagued Japanese manufacturer Toshiba Corp. is cutting 6,800 jobs after projecting a net loss of 550 billion yen (\$4.5 billion) for the fiscal year through March 2016. Toshiba said Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, it will slash the jobs in its personal computer, video product and consumer electronic businesses. The job cuts equal about 3 percent of Toshiba's overall employees.

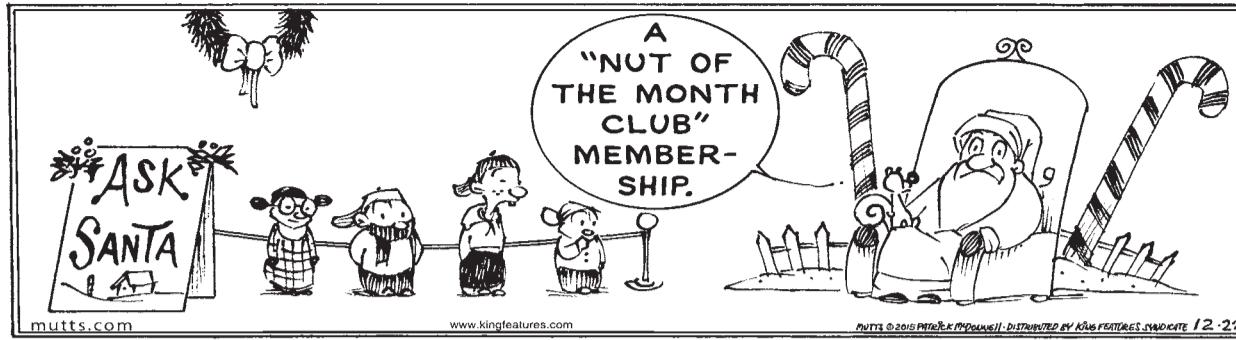
(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

requires ongoing investment to keep pace with technological changes. The chip business faces "intense global competition

and increasing price pressures," according to a recent report from Moody's. Toshiba is the world's second-largest maker of

"flash" memory chips, behind Samsung, but its sales declined slightly last year, according to research firm IHS. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8			7		3		
	9		1		8		
1			6		9		
				3	1	4	
4	9			8	2		
6	2	7					
	4			3		6	
5				4		2	
	8		2			3	

Difficulty Level ★★

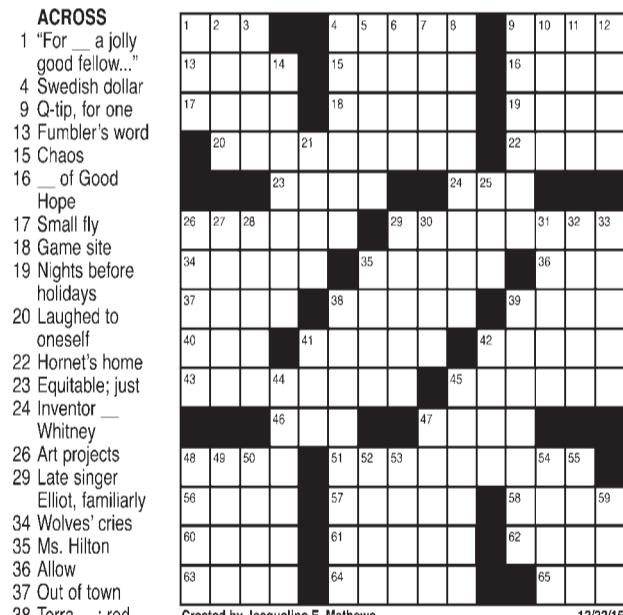
12/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	4	8	1	3	2	6	7	9
2	7	3	9	8	6	4	1	5
1	6	9	4	5	7	2	3	8
7	9	2	3	4	1	8	5	6
8	3	5	6	2	9	7	4	1
6	1	4	8	7	5	3	9	2
3	5	7	2	9	8	1	6	4
9	8	1	7	6	4	5	2	3
4	2	6	5	1	3	9	8	7

Yesterday's puzzle answer

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Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	T		A	L	L	A	Y	O	F	F
A	N	T	I		B	O	I	S	E	D	E	R
S	N	A	P		A	N	E	S	T	H	E	T
H	S	T			A	C	E			U		S
					I	N	C	U		J	R	S
S	C	O	T	S		P	A	R	A	D		E
P	O	N	D	S		S	P	I	C	Y		Y
A	L	A	S									
S	I	R										
C	Y	G	N	E								

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12/22/15

- 38 Prime Minister Stephen Harper, for one
47 In that place
48 Tub activity
49 Villain
50 Part of speech
52 News, for short
53 In a ___; miffed
54 Detergent
55 Story
59 That girl

Classifieds

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wk 50	room 546	\$6,000
wk 49	room 2571	\$3,750
wk 48	room 517	\$3,750
wk 48 or 49	room 119	\$4,750
wk 48 or 49	room 551	\$5,500
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24/7

Mongolian dog tradition revived to protect sheep, leopards



Chulunjav Bayarsaikhan poses for photos with Hassar, a shaggy, 11-month-old bankhar puppy, in Tuv Province, Mongolia. As years of overgrazing increasingly push Mongolian nomads into the territory of their oldest foes - snow leopards and wolves - a group of researchers and herders are trying to reinstate the bankhar, a close relative of the Tibetan mastiff, to its historic place beside their masters. The dog is native to Mongolia but nearly disappeared over the course of mass urbanization drives during the Soviet era.

GRACE BROWN
Associated Press
TUV AIMAG, Mongolia (AP)

— Through three decades of marriage, they have wandered together across the rolling hills of Mongolia's northern Tuv Province, accompanied by their herd of sheep and stalked by the wolves and snow leopards that threaten their livelihood.

Five months ago, Chulunjav Bayarsaikhan and Tumurbaatar Davaasuren were joined by a new

partner, Hassar, a shaggy, 11-month-old bankhar dog that a hundred years ago would have been a far more common sight outside the country's tent homes known as gers.

"Now, nothing comes near our herd at night," Tumurbaatar said. "If anything does, she barks in an alarming way, so we come out before it can attack. She learned to patrol all night and is protecting them well."

As years of overgrazing in-

(AP Photo/Grace Brown)

creasingly push Mongolian nomads into the territory of their oldest foes — snow leopards and wolves — a group of researchers and herders are trying to reinstate the bankhar, a close relative of the Tibetan mastiff, to its historic place beside their masters. The dog is native to Mongolia but nearly disappeared over the course of mass urbanization drives during the Soviet era.

DNA analysis conducted by Cornell researchers and

released this year points to Mongolia as the location where domesticated dogs first appeared some 15,000 years ago. That makes the bankhar even more of a Mongolian icon.

For thousands of years, the giant dogs roamed the Mongolian steppes with their nomadic masters, so much a part of the landscape that they featured in Chinese Qing Dynasty paintings of Mongolia and the 13th century travelogues of Marco Polo.

Now experts are hoping to revive that legacy.

At the small nonprofit Mongolia Bankhar Dog Project outside the capital, Ulaanbaatar, biologists and breeders say the shaggy, intelligent bankhar could help conservationists convince herders that they need not aggressively trap and hunt endangered predator species.

The center raises bankhar, which can grow as large as a small bear, and hands them over at 4 or 5 months old to herders like Chulunjav and Tumurbaatar, who must continue to train them under a strict regime aimed at developing their bond with livestock rather than humans. The center is a result of efforts to revive the bankhar launched in 2004 by U.S. biologist Bruce Elfstrom. Hassar now follows sheep day and night and wards off, but doesn't attack, predators that once decimated the couple's herd. "I have high hopes for my dog as a herder, because she has learned a lot so far," Chulunjav said.

"I hope in the future she can be my good friend and partner in my nomadic life." Although the country of less than 3 million people is rapidly urbanizing, mostly around sprawling Ulaanbaatar, roughly one-third

have held on to their traditional nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle. Cattle or sheep losses can spell catastrophe for households. Using dogs to protect herds also can help protect snow leopards as their population falls below 1,000, mostly in the western Altai mountain range and in the south, near the Gobi Desert, according to WWF Mongolia director Batbold Dorjgurkhem.

"The habitat that is needed by snow leopards is shrinking, due to increasing livestock numbers in Mongolia," says Batbold. "Because of this, there is a conflict between herders and this top predator."

Falling numbers of snow leopards are also unsettling Mongolia's ecosystem, Batbold added. Among the snow leopard's prey are disease-carrying marmots, whose numbers are proliferating as their chief predator's population declines. Greg Goodfellow, a scientist at the Mongolian Bankhar Dog Project, said larger herd sizes and the ensuing demand for grazing land are key factors behind the shrinking snow leopard habitat. With fewer livestock lost to predation, the group hopes herders will be able to reduce livestock numbers, easing the need to push further into leopard territory.

The dog project is seeking grants to set up regional breeding centers throughout Mongolia. There are now 10 adult dogs at the group's first breeding center. A further 15 dogs already have been placed with qualified herders, including in the Gorkhi-Terelj and Hustai national parks where wolves reside, and in South Gobi province, where snow leopards prowl. □

Russian supply ship lifts off for space station

MOSCOW (AP) — An unmanned Russian cargo ship has lifted off on a journey to the International Space Station.

The Progress spacecraft blasted off Monday from Russia's space launch complex in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, and is to dock with the space station two

days later.

It is delivering 2.5 metric tons of fuel, water, food and other supplies.

Russian Mission Control said the ship successfully entered its designated orbit just over nine minutes after the liftoff.

It was the maiden launch of a modified version of the

Progress, which has been in service for more than four decades.

The new version, called Progress-MS, is fully digital and features an improved docking system.

A Progress launch in April ended in failure, but the latest supply mission in October was successful. □

German church celebrates 'Star Wars' at weekly service



Vicars Lucas Ludewig, left, and Ulrike Garve, right, celebrate a Star Wars themed church service, at the Zion Church in Berlin, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015. About 500 people, some carrying light saber props or wearing Darth Vader masks, attended the service, more than twice as many as usual on a Sunday.

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The force is strong in Berlin.

A church in the German capital invited "Star Wars" fans to attend a special

service Sunday themed on the sci-fi blockbuster in an attempt to attract more young people into the pews. About 500 people heeded the call and attended the service, some

carrying light saber props or wearing Darth Vader masks. It was more than twice as many as usually come to Zion Church on a Sunday. "We were very happy to see so many

Japan: Festival offers nearly \$1M to make short film

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP)

— A Japanese festival focused on the art of the short film is offering a new award of nearly a million dollars to a director from anywhere in the world with a great pitch for a movie. Organizers say short video is where audiences are going, as entertainment increasingly gets consumed on smartphones and tablets. They also believe the format holds potential for novice filmmakers, bringing fresh insight and energy to the industry.

The deadline for submitting a 500-word pitch on what's billed as a "thrilling, exciting, moving" storyline is Feb. 29. The pitch must be written in either Japanese or English. Five finalists will be chosen first. Each gets a 500,000 yen (\$4,000) cash prize. Then one among the five will be picked, and receive 100 million yen (\$800,000) in funding to make his or



Tetsuya Bessho, a Japanese actor who started a film festival because of his love for short films, poses at the Brillia Short Shorts Theater in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

(AP Photo/Shuji Kajiyama)

her movie. That winner will get an additional 1 million yen (\$8,000) award. Rieko Muramoto, executive director for digital business at the Japanese entertainment company Avex Digital, which is providing the contest funds, believes it's a worthy investment for finding fresh content for online services, pioneering a genre and nurturing talent. She stresses she isn't out to make a quick buck.

"The short film holds a lot of potential for busy people who are watching video on smartphones, which means a complete story must be told much more quickly," Muramoto said. Scoring success can get tougher than for regular movies and TV shows. Switching to another piece is a mere click away — far easier than walking out of a theater where you paid for a ticket, she added. □

people in the church today," said Protestant pastor Lucas Ludewig said after the service. "It's great that there are subjects that people are interested in. They trust us to make them part of the church service without making it too Christian or too Star Wars, but to find a good compromise." With the film's theme song — played on the church's organ — still echoing around the rafters, the 30-year-old said he came up with the idea of the "Star Wars" service while talking with fellow pastor Ulrike Garve, 29, about how much they were looking forward to the seventh instalment in the franchise "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which opened Friday. "'Star Wars' picks up religious images, including Christian images and maybe some from other religions," said Ludewig. □

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STAR WARS
THE FORCE AWAKENS
MON-THURS 5:30 | 8:30
FRI 5:30 | 8:30 | 11:30
SAT 2:25 | 5:30 | 8:30 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 5:30 | 8:30

3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:45
FRI 4:45 | 7:45 | 10:45
SAT 1:50 | 4:45 | 7:45 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:45 | 7:45

SISTERS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:15 | 6:30 | 9:25
FRI 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:05
SAT 1:15 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 1:15 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

KEET & ROEN
WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 5:30 | 7:30
FRI 5:30 | 7:30
SAT 3:30 | 5:30 | 7:30
SUN & HOL 3:30 | 5:30 | 7:30

IN THE HEART OF THE SEA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10
FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50
SAT & HOL 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

CREED
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:20 | 9:10
FRI-SAT 3:30 | 6:20 | 9:10 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 3:30 | 6:20 | 9:10

ALSO SHOWING
MICHAEL B. JORDAN | STEVIE STALLONE
THE GOOD DINOSAUR
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:45
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:30 | 6:45

THE NIGHT BEFORE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 9:30
FRI-SAT 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 9:30

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Anger, confusion, follow Miss Universe crown debacle

KIMBERLY PIERCEALL

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Colombian contestant was already wearing this year's Miss Universe crown when host Steve Harvey returned to announce on live television that he had mistakenly read from a cue card, and that the contestant from the Philippines was actually this year's winner.

In the following moments, the crown was removed and placed on the head of a mystified Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach of the Philippines, other contestants rushed to console Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo of Colombia and a sheepish Harvey felt compelled to apologize on Twitter and to reporters assembled backstage.

"I feel horrible for this young woman," he said.

Harvey said it was his mistake and that he would take responsibility for not correctly reading the card, which said that Wurtzbach was this year's winner and Colombia was actually the first runner-up.

He held up the card for Fox network cameras to see up close. Talking with reporters afterward, Harvey and an executive for pageant owner WME-IMG called it human error.

"Nobody feels worse about this than me," he said.

Wurtzbach appeared stunned as she walked to the front of the stage alongside the crown-wearing Gutierrez before last year's Miss Universe from Colombia removed the crown and placed it on Wurtzbach's head.

Wurtzbach later said she felt conflicting emotions as the mistake happened: joy when she was told she had indeed won, concern for Gutierrez and confusion at the whole situation.

Wurtzbach said she tried to approach Gutierrez onstage afterward, but the Colombian was crying and surrounded by a crowd of women. She said she realized it was "probably bad timing."

"I did not take the crown from her," Wurtzbach told reporters after the pageant concluded, saying

she wished the contestant from Colombia well and hoped the Latin American community understands that "none of this was my fault." "None of this was done on purpose. It was an honest mistake," she said, apologizing on behalf of the organization she now

represents. She said Harvey told her afterward that she "should just enjoy the moment."

Harvey also apologized on Twitter, but at first misspelled the home countries of both contestants before also fixing that. "I'd like to apologize wholeheartedly to Miss Colombia & Miss Philippines for my huge mistake," he wrote. "I feel terrible."

Within seconds of Gutierrez being crowned, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos took to Twitter to commemorate what appeared to be an unprecedented back-to-back Miss Universe win for the South American nation.

"Colombians! The most beautiful in the world," wrote Santos. "Miss Universe 2016!!!! What pride!" But seconds later, Santos had to reverse himself.

"For us you'll always be our Miss Universe," he wrote in a message to Gutierrez. "We feel very proud."

Donald Trump, who used to own the rights to Miss

Universe, tweeted on Monday that "this never would have happened" under his watch. He softened his tone later that morning in an interview on NBC's Today Show, calling Harvey a "great guy" who handled it well. Trump said if he were still in charge of the

jammed with ambulances and fire trucks, and authorities said at least 30 people were taken to a hospital to be treated for injuries and one person was killed. Even before Sunday night's oops moment, the pageant was involved in another controversy when



Former Miss Universe Paulina Vega, center, takes away the flowers and sash from Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez, left, before giving them to Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, right, at the Miss Universe pageant on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, in Las Vegas. Gutierrez was incorrectly named the winner before Wurtzbach was given the Miss Universe crown.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

show, he would make the women share the title.

"I think I'd make them a co-winner. That'd be very cool," he said.

He added: "Things happen. It's live television," he said.

Harvey, who was hosting the contest for the first time, said he reread the card and noticed it said "first runner-up" next to the Colombia contestant's name before he asked producers if he had made a mistake. An executive with pageant owner WME-IMG, Mark Shapiro, said Harvey caught the mistake and corrected it on his own, saying he wanted to make a wrong into a right.

"It was humiliating for the women. It was humiliating for him," he told reporters after the pageant.

As all this was unfolding, a car drove up onto a sidewalk and struck dozens of people just outside the Planet Hollywood hotel-casino where the pageant was taking place. The Las Vegas Strip was soon

a backlash against Trump led Univision to pull out of the broadcast and the businessman to sell it in September.

NBCUniversal and Trump co-owned the Miss Universe Organization until earlier this year. The real-estate developer offended Hispanics in June when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his Republican presidential run. That led Spanish-language network Univision to pull out of the broadcast for what would have been the first of five years airing the pageants, and NBC to cut business ties with Trump. The former star of the "Celebrity Apprentice" reality show sued both companies, settling with NBC in September, which included buying the network's stake in the pageants. That same month, Trump sold the organization that includes the Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants to entertainment company WME-IMG. □

Spain's Mireia Royo wins Miss World pageant

SANYA, China (AP) — Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo was named the winner of the Miss World 2015 competition in the southern Chinese island resort of Sanya, an event dogged by controversy over China's refusal to allow Canada's entrant to attend.

Sofia Nikitchuk of Russia was the runner-up and Indonesia's Maria Harfanti took third place in the Saturday night final following a lengthy competition featuring 114 women.

Each had won the right to represent their country in a series of local and regional competitions.

The victory marked the first-ever win for a Spanish contestant.

"I think this is a good decision, because Miss World is not looking for our body, they are looking for a soul," said Lalaguna, a 23-year-old model from Barcelona with a degree in pharmacology who plans to pursue a master's degree in nutrition. She placed first in the competition's top model contest and appeared to impress the judges with her public speaking.

"I think it's important that they don't want to see only our bodies, they are looking for moral things," she said.

Not present was Miss Canada, Chinese-born Anastasia Lin, who had been prevented from boarding her connecting flight to Sanya from Hong Kong last month after China refused her a visa.

Lin is an outspoken critic of Chinese religious policy and a follower of the Falun Gong meditation practice, which was outlawed by China in 1999.

She said that after she won the Canadian title, Chinese security agents visited her father, who still lives in China, in an apparent attempt to intimidate her into silence. China has hosted the competition seven times, starting in 2003, as part of its attempts to project a more modern, outgoing image. □

Review: 'Fiddler on the Roof' revival vibrant and heartfelt

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Tevye who first emerges in the latest revival of "Fiddler on the Roof" is wearing a modern winter jacket and reads the opening lines tentatively, as if from a history book. Then he strips off the jacket and melts into 1905.

It's a simple and elegant way to connect the past with the present and the first sign that you are in thoughtful hands. The "Fiddler" that opened Sunday at the Broadway Theatre under the leadership of director Bartlett Sher is vibrant and brilliant and heartfelt. Over at Lincoln Center, Sher and his team this past spring breathed life into that dusty show "The King and I" and lightening has struck twice here. They've made one of the last great musicals of Broadway's Golden Age urgent and profound.

Set in rural, pre-Revolutionary Russia, the tale of Tevye and fellow Russian Jews being forced to flee is a universal one. But audiences at this revival won't be able to miss the parallels to real life as Europe witnesses the greatest movement of refugees since World War II.

Still, it's Tevye's battles with tradition that is at the center of this classic Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick and Joseph Stein musical, with a list of songs that are pure bliss. And the musical usual-

and anger and endless love. Burstein, a veteran of "Cabaret" and "The Drowsy Chaperone," is a playful and human Tevye, without falling into stereotype or precedent.

His three rebellious daughters are also sublime, from Alexandra Silber's soulful Tzeitel to a luminous, heartbreak Samanthe Massell and a bookish-revolutionary Melanie Moore.

The only odd note in this show is Jessica Hecht's Golde, who is too shrill and one dimensional, and struggles with the vocal requirements. She never reveals her crusted-over warmth and her duet with Tevye "Do You Love Me?" is consequently underwhelming. But brilliant touches are everywhere elsewhere. When Tevye says goodbye to Hodel, he wraps his scarf around her neck, a gesture echoed by Golde doing the same a few scenes later with Chava. When Motel sings about God making the Red Sea part, he dunks his hands into a pail of real water. These are small things but they add up to that taken-care-of feeling you get at a great restaurant, of a team that has thought of everything. This is a show that has somersaulting dancers and real Sabbath candles, but never loses its focus. Michael Yeargan's scenic design includes a nifty wooden house, a door on wheels that turns with smart ease and trees that glide (as well as a forest that floats in midair). The cast moves the pieces themselves, a touch consistent with their hard-scrabble roles. □



In this undated photo provided Jeffrey Richards Associates, Danny Burstein, center, as Tevye, and cast rehearse "Fiddler on the Roof" in New York. The musical "Fiddler on the Roof" starring Burstein as Tevye and Jessica Hecht as Golde, opens Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, at the Broadway Theatre in New York.

(Joan Marcus/Jeffrey Richards Associates via AP)

ly rises or falls on the performance of its leading man. This time, it's Danny Burstein and he is superb, just the right amount of humor

He sometime cheekily addresses the audience, as if to enlist our support in his various conversations with God.

They are a joy to hear and watch as they weigh their new romances with the heartbreak they are making their father endure.

Aretha Franklin appears with Jazz at Lincoln Center

CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Queen of Soul made a surprise appearance at the House of Swing, helping the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra usher in the holiday season at their first concert in their newly refurbished home.

Trumpeter Wynton Marsalis had a special gift for the audience when he introduced Aretha Franklin in the middle of Thursday night's annual "Big Band Holidays" concert at the Rose Theater. The concert followed a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Bette Midler to open the new Mica and Ahmet Ertegun Atrium at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Accompanying herself on piano, she then sang the traditional Christmas carol "O Tannenbaum" in English and German.



JALC Managing and Artistic Director, trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra perform at the "Big Band Holidays" concert at the Rose Theater in New York. The Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, made a surprise appearance at the House of Swing, helping the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra usher in the holiday season at their first concert in their newly refurbished home.

(Frank Stewart/Jazz at Lincoln Center via AP)

man. She followed with a soulful, gospel-infused version of the Tom Jones-Harvey Schmidt tune "My Cup Runneth Over," an outtake from her 1972 album "To Be

Young, Gifted and Black," which she recently added to her concert repertoire. The 73-year-old diva, joking that "this happens to be my 50th year in the business

and I'm feeling it," dedicated her performance to Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun, who died in 2006.

Ertegun signed Franklin to the label in 1967 and helped turn her into the Queen of Soul by recording such hits as "Respect."

Mica Ertegun, a prominent interior designer, chose to honor her late husband's legacy by providing the lead gift and taking an active role in the multimillion-dollar makeover of the public spaces connecting Jazz at Lincoln Center's three performance venues. Marsalis, in a backstage interview, noted that when Jazz at Lincoln Center moved into its new home, dubbed the House of Swing, on two floors of the Time Warner Center in 2004, the organization poured its resources into the perfor-

mance venues, leaving little left over for the atrium, which was treated as an afterthought.

Now, he says, the public space has "a warmth and feeling" that was lacking before. The redesign, with its curving walls of red oak, opens up the public space to the two-story glass windows offering sweeping views of Central Park and the Manhattan skyline, adds a raised stage by the windows for performances by jazz ensembles, connects the floors with a glass staircase, and incorporates state-of-the-art technology, including a 26-foot (8-meter) video wall.

"It's elegant, it's grand and it has a type of relaxed formality," said Marsalis, JALC's managing and artistic director. "It's a more welcoming atmosphere for the House of Swing." □



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THEM.

THE VALLÉE DE JOUX. FOR MILLENNIA A HARSH, UNYIELDING ENVIRONMENT; AND SINCE 1875 THE HOME OF AUDEMARS PIGUET, IN THE VILLAGE OF LE BRASSUS. THE EARLY WATCHMAKERS WERE SHAPED HERE, IN AWE OF THE FORCE OF NATURE YET DRIVEN TO MASTER ITS MYSTERIES THROUGH THE COMPLEX MECHANICS OF THEIR CRAFT. STILL TODAY THIS PIONEERING SPIRIT INSPIRES US TO CONSTANTLY CHALLENGE THE CONVENTIONS OF FINE WATCHMAKING.



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